



VFBV | VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016



VFBV

VOLUNTEER FIRE
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Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc.

Reg No. A0057948T ABN 110 830 80403

Strong Volunteerism, Embraced to Build Community Resilience for a Safer Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

For the year ended 30 June 2016

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Some photographs courtesy of: *FireWise*, Brigades, CFA and Keith Pakenham AFSM.



After many years of volunteering myself, I continue to be surprised by the passion, commitment and resilience of CFA volunteers. On behalf of the Board, I appreciate and welcome your views, comments and support to encourage, maintain and strengthen emergency service volunteering in Victoria. I would like to thank all volunteers for their passion and for selflessly giving up their time to protect and support their community.

As an organisation built to be the voice of CFA volunteers, VFBV has grown and become more sophisticated in its role, and it has done that with the great support of Brigades. This has been particularly

important, as we have had a challenging year, on and off the fireground. Even through these tough times, volunteers have continued to deliver services to Victoria's communities.

VFBV's office bearers all come from brigades and having taken up the role of State President this year, I am in the fortunate position of working to build on the achievements of those who have gone before me. Among them are VFBV's inaugural President Gary Lyttle AFSM and another member of its first Board, Tom Brodie AFSM, who both retired from the Board this year. Volunteers benefit every day from the vision of that first group of VFBV's leadership. I also want to pay tribute to Hans van Hamond AFSM, who has given us five years of magnificent leadership as President and handed on a stronger VFBV as a result.

I believe it is up to each leader to ensure they pass the organisation to their successor in better shape than they received it, and I aim to do that, just as Gary and Hans have done before me. A part of that vision is the arrival of the first women on our Board. Jill Parker and Samantha Rothman were selected as the best of a strong field of candidates and are reflective of the great pool of quality female leaders that have been coming through the ranks.

One sad event for volunteers this year has been the passing of long time editor of *The Fireman*, Alan King AFSM. Alan has been a great supporter and a contributor, and was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for his service. A volunteer himself and very much a member of the CFA family for many years, Alan will be greatly missed.

As State President and on behalf of the VFBV Board, I would like to acknowledge the work of all of the staff within VFBV. Capably led by CEO Andrew Ford and Executive Officer Adam Barnett, our staff continue to provide exemplary work in both quantity and quality. I would like to personally recognise the exceptional skill level of both Andrew and Adam in their handling and management of the extreme workload regarding the ongoing issues impacting on volunteers in CFA. We are fortunate to have such a great team of people working for us.

And finally, I would like to thank Board, State and District Council members – they are the faces of VFBV at the local level, and in turn give volume and credibility to the voice of the Brigades and volunteers they represent.

Nev Jones, AFSM



This has been a tough year, when VFBV needed to step up and strongly represent CFA volunteers. I am enormously proud of the way VFBV has performed and approached this challenge.

Over recent years we have progressively developed our networks, our links to members, our profile and a respect for our voice.

This year, that voice was called on, and I believe we delivered it strongly, respectfully, diligently, truthfully and powerfully.

This voice is the culmination of our whole organisation's effort and commitment. To every VFBV delegate, our members and staff, and the network of supporters who work with or listen to us, thank you.

This association has represented volunteers at state level, and worked diligently at the local level to resolve issues in partnership with District Councils and brigades. We can point to leadership training, raising the profile of volunteer issues, our continued campaign for presumptive legislation, strong input to the Fiskville Inquiry and Fire Service Review, the great work of our support officers in the field, VESEP grants and the much greater involvement of women and younger volunteers, as great achievements that directly benefit brigades.

For much of the second half of the year, we have all been busy seeking to preserve and protect the volunteer based and fully integrated nature of CFA, an enormous additional challenge, workload and commitment.

I want to thank the State Council, our 21 District Councils, the committees and working groups, brigades, Groups, our elected delegates and the local volunteer leaders who have taken the initiative, encouraged and supported us with the great things they have under way. I also want to acknowledge and thank the VFBV Board for their focus on shaping the future for CFA, VFBV and our members, and a great source of sound direction, advice and perspective.

In particular, I am proud of these key achievements:

- Another record number of Brigades affiliating with VFBV – the 93% of brigades affiliated this year is a strong show of support
- VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey – record numbers taking part and the groundwork for expansion to more agencies and interstate volunteers
- VFBV Volunteer Leadership Program – with another 55 graduates this year, another investment in the future of volunteerism and the emergency services
- VFBV's work to build public awareness of the professionalism and essential nature of CFA volunteers this year included an innovative animated video, and a computer generated time lapse video using evidence based modelling, both demonstrating the value of CFA's great volunteer surge capacity
- Emergency Management Volunteer Statement – a document that complements and strengthens the CFA Volunteer Charter through a commitment from State Government to all EM volunteers
- VESEP grants – support to brigades with case studies and practical help from the VFBV Support Officers
- Supporting the growth and development of the Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) – an arena for the raising of national issues
- VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network – giving younger volunteers a greater voice now, and building their capabilities as the next generation of leaders
- Digital Scanners – the result of a VFBV survey in 2010, this year brigades received thousands of subsidised digital scanners to keep them informed after the shutdown of analogue radio channels
- Delegate Development Program – building the skills of Brigade Delegates and their capabilities as leaders
- The continuing good work of the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund – helping 37 volunteers this year
- Assistance to volunteers affected by the year's major fires - support in accessing government assistance, and financial grants from the Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery fund to volunteers who lost their homes

- Major representation work on issues including:
 - The Fire Services Review – including a detailed submission and presentation to the Parliamentary Committee
 - The Fiskville Inquiry – stressing the safety of our members and support to any who have been exposed; VFBV's submission and presentations to the Inquiry calling for expert, independent transparent and accountable analysis of decisions; and calling for urgent replacement of Fiskville's vital training capacity.
 - Presumptive legislation – continuing to engage with Members of Parliament, supporting brigades raising the issue locally, and addressing a Parliamentary Inquiry that led to career and volunteer firefighters being treated equally under Queensland's new legislation

VFBV's work continues with volunteer concerns to ensure CFA industrial agreements and workforce arrangements contribute positively to sustaining a strong volunteer based and fully integrated CFA model. We have campaigned to ensure that industrial agreements do not override the Chief Officer's powers, or interfere with CFA's ability to: engage or deploy volunteers; provide support or equipment to volunteers; or manage its operations in relation to volunteers.

CFA has faced significant change, and volunteers thank the former Minister for Emergency Services Jane Garrett, CFA Chair Claire Higgins, the former CFA Board, CFA CEO Lucinda Nolan, and Chief Officers Euan Ferguson and his successor Joe Buffone for their hard work and support for volunteers.

And finally, I would like to personally thank the VFBV Board Members, State Councillors, District Council members, Brigade Delegates, and the individual volunteers who have contributed on committees, in consultation and local resolution of a huge range of issues. Thanks also to all VFBV staff members, most of whom are also CFA volunteers, for their hard work, commitment and willingness to take on a range of issues that affect not only local brigades but issues that impact statewide and nationally.

VFBV has, more than ever, been doing its job of working for Strong Volunteerism, Embraced to Build Community Resilience for a Safer Victoria, and you have all been a part of that great vision.

Andrew Ford
Chief Executive Officer

It has been an eventful year, with a long and busy summer season with significant community impact, VFBV's work with the Fire Services Review, the Fiskville Inquiry and a Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into firefighters cancer law, the formation of a new CFA District and VFBV District Council, the distribution of thousands of subsidised digital scanners to brigades, VESEP grants and innovative new work to promote the professionalism and contribution of CFA volunteers.

An early start to the 2015/16 fire season brought fires including:
Lancefield – 4,000 hectares
Strathdownie peat fire
Somerton tip fire
Scotsburn – 4,600 hectares
Wye River – 2,500 hectares

While Victoria lost 148 homes to bushfires, CFA volunteers went to South Australia to fight the 80,000 hectare Adelaide Hills fires and to Tasmania to assist with fires that burnt 100,000 hectares – another example of the vital importance of CFA's volunteer surge capacity.

It was identified through VFBV's 2010 Scanner and Listening Set Stocktake that volunteers were using thousands of analogue machines that would become redundant when CFA moved to digital radio. With significant input from volunteers, in August this year a digital scanner was chosen for CFA. Funding through VESEP and CFA provided a subsidy for 10,000 scanners for brigades and Groups.

VFBV and the volunteer network were involved at every stage and provided a good example of how to bring in new technology.

Results from the 2014 VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey once again demonstrated the value of the annual survey, with record participation. The final report went to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Emergency Management Commissioner and CFA, and became part of the development of the CFA Red Paper as an evidence base to shape the future of the CFA.

VFBV and volunteers provided extensive input to the State Government's draft Emergency Management Volunteer Statement for Victoria. In discussions with VFBV, the Minister and Emergency Management Commissioner

assured that the Statement is intended to strengthen and complement the CFA Volunteer Charter.

Promoting the professionalism and essential nature of volunteers to Victoria's emergency services, VFBV launched a simple animated video showing how CFA's huge volunteer capacity deals with multiple major incidents, anywhere in the state at any time.

VFBV then engaged with the University of Melbourne's Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety to develop a tool to put CFA response data into visual form. Using computer generated time lapse video of a map of Victoria, it demonstrates how crews from multiple brigades deploy to major incidents anywhere in the state, how large numbers of firefighters are drawn from the Greater Melbourne Area, and how the number of days requiring more than 250 CFA trucks in the field has doubled since 2001.

The two videos have achieved tens of thousands of views online, and are in use by VFBV delegates around the state.

VFBV provided practical support to Brigades applying for Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grants for new emergency vehicles, equipment and fire station improvements, and the State Government announced \$7.1 million for the successful 202 CFA brigades.

VFBV's inaugural President Gary Lyttle AFSM and Board Member Tom Brodie AFSM retired from the Board, succeeded by Jill Parker and Samantha Rothman, the Board's first female members. Hans van Hamond AFSM retired from the role of State President after five successful years, succeeded by Nev Jones AFSM.

District 27 was established in the wake of the Hazelwood Mine Fire, and the VFBV District 27 Council held its first meetings early in 2016.

VFBV provided a submission and evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Fiskville Training College, stressing the paramount importance of the safety of our members and ongoing support to anyone who had been exposed, and calling for expert, independent transparent and accountable analysis of the facts involved with the Fiskville issue, and how to fix the issue for the future.

VFBV's work to protect volunteers and CFA from industrial interference gave rise to unprecedented public activities involving thousands of volunteers around the state, and a commitment to changed Federal Legislation, making it objectionable for workplace agreements to restrict or limit the emergency organisation's ability to:

- engage or deploy its volunteers;
- provide support or equipment to those volunteers;
- manage its relationship with, or work with, any recognised emergency management body in relation to those volunteers;
- otherwise manage its operations in relation to those volunteers.

Another representation task was the State Government's Fire Services Review, for which VFBV provided a formal submission, briefings and practical assistance. A key theme of the review was recognition of the enormous front line and collective capacity of Victoria's fire services, and the need to ensure there is a culture of cooperation and collective respect.

VFBV gave evidence to a Parliamentary Inquiry that led to Queensland passing presumptive legislation to give paid and volunteer firefighters equal access to fairer cancer compensation rights. Volunteers were approaching Victorian MPs to sign a pledge to support Victorian legislation to meet that same standard, and Western Australia introduced legislation to cover its volunteer firefighters. VFBV continues to press for equal coverage for all Victorian firefighters.

In December, another 55 volunteers graduated from the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Scholarship Program, making it more than 230 who have graduated since 2010. The volunteers from CFA and five other emergency service agencies achieved the nationally recognised Certificate IV in Frontline Management.

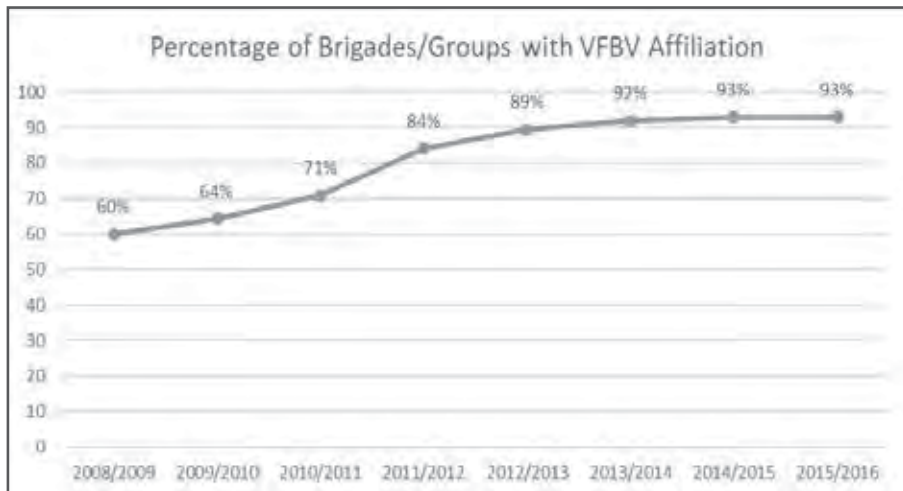
Throughout the year, CFA Brigades responded to 40,000 emergency incidents and 82,000 turnouts, protecting 3.3 million Victorians, 60% of suburban Melbourne, regional cities and all of country Victoria.

VFBV MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES AT ALL-TIME HIGH

Volunteer support for their association continues at historically high levels. A slightly higher number of Brigades chose to affiliate with VFBV in 2015-16, setting a new record and maintaining the overall 93% affiliation first achieved in the previous year.

Districts 13, 14, 22, 23, 24 and 27 achieved 100% Brigade affiliation, and 12 Districts were at 95% affiliation or higher.

The continued strong support from Brigades is being attributed to the hard work and good local representation of District Councils, Brigade Delegates and State Council delegates; practical projects like the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Scholarships program, the VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey, the partnership with CFA that provided thousands of subsidised digital scanners, the VFBV representation that gained commitments from successive State Governments to additional new fire trucks worth \$60 million; and the affiliation related benefits of additional involvement in VFBV forums and decisions, and eligibility for the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund.



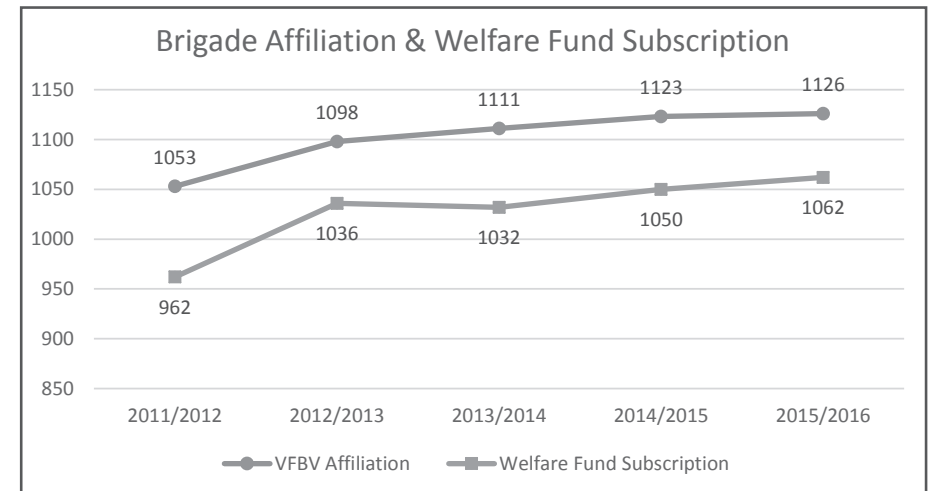
VOLUNTEER WELFARE FUND - MOST BRIGADES ARE MEMBERS

Brigade membership of the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund has risen to another record high, with 1,062 Brigades subscribing this year, compared with fewer than 600 seven years ago.

In 2015/2016 the Welfare Fund distributed \$133,348 to 37 volunteers experiencing financial hardship.

Over more than a century, the Fund has helped close to 1,100 volunteers, distributing over \$1.4 million in grants. It offers small grants to CFA volunteers, long serving former volunteers and their families, who are experiencing significant financial hardship. Typical cases involve prolonged illness, bereavement, loss of earnings, or the accommodation and travel costs associated with supporting a relative in hospital.

The Welfare Fund is run under Australian Tax Office rules, independently audited, uses only State Government approved investments, and the welfare grant and investment decisions are made by a committee of long serving CFA volunteers. To subscribe to the Welfare Fund, Brigades must be affiliated with VFBV, which covers the operating costs so that any money the Fund receives is used entirely to help volunteers in need.



VFBV's day to day work is based on volunteer involvement at every level and an association structure that supports both major projects and the raising and resolving of issues from the local to the statewide arena.

Volunteers can raise issues or ideas through a VFBV network that starts with their own Brigade and includes their District Council, the specialist VFBV/CFA Joint Committees, VFBV State Council, and a variety of specialist working parties, and works with CFA at every level to enable solutions in the shortest possible time.

Here are some examples of the projects and issues receiving attention during the year:

Digital Scanners

During the year, a cooperative VFBV/CFA project delivered 10,000 VESEP/CFA subsidised digital scanners to Brigades, with an equitable distribution system guaranteeing every Brigade up to eight subsidised units, and the option of more at a price hundreds of dollars below retail.



The work started in 2010, with VFBV's Scanner and Listening Set Stocktake, which revealed that Brigades and volunteers were using thousands of analogue units that would become redundant when CFA moved to digital dispatch.

VFBV worked with CFA on the subsidy scheme, applying for VESEP funding and managing brigades' applications, as well as ensuring units were extensively field tested by volunteers.

The project resolved a significant problem affecting every Brigade, and demonstrated the great value of involving VFBV representatives and volunteers in the field, in the selection, testing and introduction of new equipment.

Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP)

Every year, VFBV supports Brigades applying for VESEP grants, with a detailed Application Help Pack, simple case studies that show how successful applications have worked in past years, and direct advice and encouragement from VFBV State Councillors and VFBV Support Officers.

VFBV worked with the State Government on the original design of the program, which is low on paperwork and lets brigades choose the equipment or projects that suit their community needs and fundraising capabilities. Fundraising is required because VESEP grants top up locally raised funds on a \$2 for \$1 basis.

This financial year, VESEP provided grants totalling \$7.1 million to 202 CFA brigades, funding new emergency vehicles, equipment and fire station improvements.

In addition, there was \$1.9 million for initiatives such as cold climate gear for volunteers attending callouts in inclement weather.

Over 65s Income Protection

During the year, VFBV successfully supported a volunteer over the age of 65 who was denied loss of income compensation after a fireground accident.

The volunteer's claim was initially rejected under an interpretation of CFA regulations because he was deemed to be of retirement age.

The volunteer's local VFBV District Council and the VFBV Executive took up the volunteer's case and CFA reversed its decision, providing full compensation.

Representation brought about co-operation; CFA recognised that this matter is very important to volunteers and agreed to VFBV's request to work on legislative changes that ensure the situation is not repeated; a reassuring move for all volunteers who contribute to their community past 65.

VFBV has requested that the legislation changes be based on Western Australia's recent changes, which removed all reference to retirement ages from their workers' and volunteer compensation legislation.

First Aid and Medical Qualifications

The VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee, has moved towards a solution to ensure recognition of existing first aid skills of volunteers who are medical practitioners, paramedics and nurses.

The Committee was this year advised that CFA proposes the creation of a new CFA competency that will be used to record those members who have evidence of formal and current qualifications and will satisfy the CFA skills profile requirements for first aid for those members.

The need for recognition of prior learning has been part of a wider issue for some time, including limits on the number of volunteers being trained in First Aid. Those limits have persisted in spite of the Chief Officer's 'maximum density model' and assurances that a funding proposal was close to being accepted.

VFBV continues to work with CFA towards the removal of barriers to First Aid training, Recognition of Prior Learning, and First Aid training to be made available for every operational volunteer willing to undertake it and non-operational volunteers who need it under OH&S requirements.



Cold Climate Jackets

This year's VESEP Grants from the State Government included \$1.9 million for initiatives including cold climate gear for volunteers attending callouts like road accidents and searches in inclement weather.

The funding was achieved through a successful joint CFA/VFBV State Initiative. The VFBV/CFA Joint Equipment & Infrastructure Committee endorsed specifications for the Cold Climate Jackets after field testing by volunteers who improved the design.

The evaluation included four jackets sent to each District, and the feedback received from the volunteers who put them to practical use was overwhelmingly positive.

Volunteer Input on Pumpers and Tankers

The successful roadshow format advocated by VFBV when the current Medium Tanker was being developed has been further refined this year, with the prototype Heavy Tanker completing its tour and the Medium Pumper going into production.

The roadshow takes each prototype around the state, allowing thousands of volunteers and staff to get their hands on the next generation vehicles, ask questions and make suggestions and requests.

The VFBV/CFA Joint Equipment Committee found volunteers' comments and requests led to a number of improvements to the equipment/stowage layout of the Heavy Tanker.



BOV Insurance

Early in the year, the strong advocacy of VFBV delegates and their cooperative work with CFA paid off, with arrangements to upgrade the insurance on Brigade Owned Vehicles (BOVs). This means that brigades will no longer be left out of pocket if a vehicle is written off.

The issue was first highlighted by VFBV following an incident in 2013, and has been a sensitive issue, especially when vehicles were damaged during operational deployment elsewhere in the state, leaving the Brigade having to pay the gap between the vehicle's pre-accident value and the actual replacement cost.

CFA approved VFBV's call for the establishment of an annual budget provision to cover any gap, and new for old replacement of vehicles within 24 months of their registration.

Welfare and Disaster Support

In addition to the work of the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund, VFBV delegates, officials and Board Members were hard at work in the wake of the major fires of the 2015/16 summer, meeting with brigades in the affected areas and conducting welfare checks on individual volunteers.

VFBV also assisted with information and support in accessing government support services for people affected by bushfires and other natural disasters on the VFBV website and provided it to VFBV officials in each District.

VFBV's support for volunteers in need also includes the work of the VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund, providing one-off financial grants to volunteers who had lost their homes.

Training Issues

During the year, the VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee oversaw the introduction of materials for improved structural firefighting training.

The new program consists of 11 sessions and can be delivered all in one block or as seven separate sections to provide greater flexibility to meet the needs of volunteers.

On another front, the Joint Committee raised concerns at the lack of computer aided simulation training offered to volunteers, and requested that CFA develop a proactive delivery plan and budget to provide brigades with greater access to this popular and flexible training option.

CFA agreed to a VFBV/CFA Joint Operations Committee request to rework the Sector Commander course to remove duplication of elements that are already in other courses and reduce the time commitment required. The course has been broken into four distinct modules with any duplication removed, a move expected to reduce the time commitment required from volunteers.

Resolving Conflicts in Brigades

VFBV this year added to its familiar work of supporting brigades to resolve internal issues at the local level, by developing a simple handbook for delegates on resolving conflicts within brigades.

VFBV was directly involved in the successful resolution of more than a dozen conflict cases that arose during the year, and the handbook is an additional option that will go a long way to finding prompt and mutually respectful outcomes for volunteers.

The handbook has been designed by volunteers for volunteers, as a helpful tool and an easy-to-read guide to assist delegates in helping Captains and volunteers to achieve timely resolutions to conflicts, including bullying, discrimination or harassment issues.

It has now gone to a final volunteer feedback round, and will be finalised early in the next financial year.

CFA Memorial

CFA consulted families who have lost loved ones about the future of the Fiskville Memorial, and VFBV has called for the opinions of volunteers at large to be considered, stressing that it is more than just a question of where to move the memorial wall.

Further examples

As a guide to the huge variety of issues handled every year by VFBV's representatives on Joint VFBV/CFA Committees and working groups, brigades and individual volunteers, here are some additional examples from the past 12 months:

- The recognition of junior services as part of a member's overall service record
- Ultralight/slip on crew protection systems
- Low voltage fuse removal qualifications
- Proposals for a zero blood alcohol requirement for Code One driving

For a much more detailed list of issues, see Page 21.

VFBV Leadership Scholarships

Another 55 volunteers graduated from the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Scholarship Program this year, taking the total to more than 230 who have graduated since 2010.

VFBV has expanded the program to serve the wider Emergency Management sector, and this year volunteers from CFA, Ambulance Victoria, Lifesaving Victoria, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, St John Ambulance and VICSES achieved the nationally recognised Certificate IV in Frontline Management, delivered for VFBV by Chisholm TAFE.



The program is designed to suit the study needs of volunteers and the qualification will help them in their day to day employment as well as their work as emergency volunteers, their day to day careers and their contributions to the community for years to come.

The program is funded by VFBV, with assistance over the years from generous donors such as international racehorse breeding organisation Darley, the Herald Sun and the Victoria Racing Club. In recent years, the program has received top up funding and support from the Victorian Government through the Valuing Volunteers Program.

VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network

VFBV has made great progress in establishing a formal youth network involving young volunteers from across the emergency services sector this year, with the aim of giving younger volunteers greater input to decision making in VFBV, CFA and the broader Emergency Management Sector.

Many young volunteers from CFA and other agencies have joined to contribute their ideas and build their skills, as leaders of the future.



On the back of a very successful CFA Youth Forum in May, over 100 young people from across the sector have signed on to join the VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network.

They are supported by experienced senior volunteers who as Champions, guide them in their projects and provide them with knowledge and experience of VFBV, CFA and the sector as a whole.

VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey

The annual VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey took significant steps forward this year, with the successful launch of the new VICSES version, and the groundwork in place to take the next survey to more Victorian agencies and volunteer firefighters nationwide.

The 2015 survey attracted more than 2,500 volunteers taking part, with their responses to be analysed for a survey report going to VFBV and CFA Boards, CFA's senior management, VICSES, the Emergency Management Commissioner and the Minister for Emergency Services.

As the year drew to a close, the 2016 survey was about to open with VFBV hosting a nationwide version for the Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) and tailored versions for Victorian emergency volunteers with Ambulance Victoria, St John Ambulance, the Australian Red Cross, Life Saving Victoria, the Salvation Army and the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry.

Emergency Medical Response (EMR)

With the State Government announcing additional funding to expand Emergency Medical Response (EMR) by CFA brigades, VFBV sought confirmation from CFA and the Emergency Management Commissioner that both volunteers and paid firefighters will be providing the service.

Five volunteer brigades have already successfully provided EMR for years under the pilot program, and saved a significant number of lives in the process. VFBV is encouraging brigades in communities that need EMR, and who have the willingness and the capacity to provide this important community service, to be working with VFBV to pursue support to enable its implementation in their brigade area.

We have encouraged brigades to have the conversation among their volunteers, talk to their community about the issues and the benefits, and discuss possible support for the program with community leaders.

Fire Services Review

VFBV put considerable work into ensuring the State Government's Fire Services Review had access to sufficient information and the advice and opinions of the volunteers at the front line. VFBV was supportive of the Review's findings and the Government's response to the recommendations.

The Government's proposed actions were based on building a culture of co-operation and respect, and a very strong theme throughout the Review's report was the need for the skills, expertise and professionalism of volunteers and paid staff alike to be recognised and respected equally, regardless of their pay status.

VFBV's submission addressed the importance of CFA's integrated model, interoperability between agencies, and the absolute necessity of encouraging, maintaining and strengthening the volunteer resource that gives CFA its large scale surge capacity.

VFBV saw the Victorian Government's response to the report as a road map, and the invitation for much closer collective effort and strong constructive relationships gave us the optimism that some real improvements can be made. For the issues requiring more work, VFBV looks forward to working with Government, the agencies and other stakeholders.

Fiskville Training College

VFBV has been active in stressing the importance of the safety of our members, and the need for proper support to any who have been exposed at the Fiskville site.

During CFA's efforts to remediate the site, VFBV campaigned for transparent, expert and independent monitoring and easier access to information, including the posting of regular water testing results online.

VFBV made submission and provided evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fiskville, calling for expert, independent, transparent and accountable analysis of decisions, and providing the facts and figures to demonstrate the need for urgent replacement of Fiskville's vital training capacity.

VFBV continued to press for the introduction of sufficient facilities to fill the gap in CFA's state-level capacity, along with appropriate facilities for the Brigades that previously used Fiskville as their regional training base.

Delegate Development

Following on from our successful District Council Executive Workshops, VFBV this year developed the pilot of a formal competency course for Brigade Delegates, designed to equip them with skills that will help to increase the level of engagement between District Councils, brigades/groups and individuals, and raise the profile of this important role.

After successful completion of the course, delegates will be awarded with two modules from Cert II in Public Safety (Firefighting Operations), with subjects ranging from Leadership, Raising Issues and Networking, to Decision Making, Managing Issues and Problem Solving.

Once under way, the program will help Brigade delegates be more involved in local and wider issues, and help District Councils with their succession planning.

Presumptive Legislation

The need for presumptive legislation to give firefighters fairer and simpler access to cancer compensation remains unresolved in Victoria, but VFBV and Brigades have continued to engage with Members of Parliament on:

- Its importance to volunteers
- that it must list the 12 cancers and years of service requirements as appear in Federal and other States' legislation
- that it must treat career and volunteer firefighters equally, and
- that it include firefighters who have already been diagnosed.



VFBV provided input to a Parliamentary inquiry that led to Queensland passing presumptive legislation that meets the standard set by the South Australian legislation, treating career and volunteer firefighters equally and naming the same 12 cancers and years of service requirements as appear Federal and other States' legislation. Western Australia has since introduced a Bill to provide similar coverage for WA volunteers.

The Victorian Government has committed to introducing presumptive legislation for career and volunteer firefighters, and VFBV and volunteers are working with Members of Parliament to ensure it meets the current standard set by the legislation now in force, in Queensland and South Australia.

EM Volunteer Statement

VFBV and volunteers took an active role in contributing improvements to the draft Emergency Management Volunteer Statement for Victoria ahead of its successful introduction during the year.

The Statement is a commitment between the Government, agencies and emergency volunteers. As stated by Minister Jane Garrett and EM Commissioner Craig Lapsley the Statement strengthens and complements the CFA Volunteer Charter.

VFBV volunteer feedback included a strong theme that the Statement's value relies on the level of effort put into ensuring the words are put into action, and many volunteers asked how the Statement's achievements would be measured and whether there would be opportunities to raise any concerns.

VFBV sees it as a positive and reinforcing commitment by the Victorian Government and Emergency Management Sector to consult and engage with volunteers in emergency management on matters that affect them.

Regional BASOs

With CFA appointing Regional BASOs to implement parts of the Volunteer Support Program, the VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee this year highlighted the importance of the original BASO program and the vital need to continue their direct support to brigades.

BASOs remain one of the most trusted and respected resources CFA can provide to assist and support brigades with their ever increasing administrative and logistical workloads.

INQUIRIES AND REVIEWS

This year, VFBV represented volunteers before a number of official inquiries, Parliamentary Committees and reviews, including the State Government's Fire Services Review, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fiskville and the Queensland Parliamentary inquiry that led to the introduction of its firefighters' cancer law.

The preparation of the submissions, briefings and formal evidence involved hundreds of hours of research and consultation with volunteers, feedback from our 21 District Councils from around the state, local workshops, and reference to the submissions made by brigades and individual volunteers.

Our work on the Fire Services Review began with a workshop of the entire VFBV State Council that set the guidelines for our submission. We also provided the Review with copies of our submissions to:

- The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC)
- The Jones Inquiry into the Effect of Arrangements made by CFA on its Volunteers
- The Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Report, Managing Emergency Services Volunteers



- The 2008 Lewis Report on the Processes to Select New Personal Protective Clothing for Victorian Firefighters
- The Victorian Government's Green Paper titled Towards a More Disaster Resilient and Safer Victoria
- Victoria's Fire Services Property Levy Options Paper

The final report of the 2014 VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey provided important evidence from a volunteer's perspective, and we provided summaries in writing to all Members of the Victorian Parliament. VFBV also provided regular updates to volunteers via email, our website and their State and District Council representatives.

VFBV officials gave evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fiskville, VFBV has had face-to-face meetings with successive Emergency Services Ministers and Shadow Ministers on a variety of issues, and local VFBV Delegates have done the same with local MPs in their Districts.

A lot of work, at the VFBV office, in our Board, State and District Council meetings and other forums around the state, and at brigade level, goes into making sure that VFBV, as the voice of the volunteers, is heard whenever decisions that may affect the welfare and efficiency of volunteers are to be made.

VFBV support at the local level

Our team of VFBV Support Officers work directly with brigades and the elected volunteer representatives of each VFBV District Council. They provide technical assistance and hands on support in each of CFA's five Regions. The Support Officers are also an important addition to VFBV's network of constant feedback from volunteers, brigades, District Councils and CFA District Planning Committees.

The Support Officers are all experienced CFA volunteers in roles as Captains, Lieutenants and at Group level, and each one also works on statewide projects in support of volunteers.

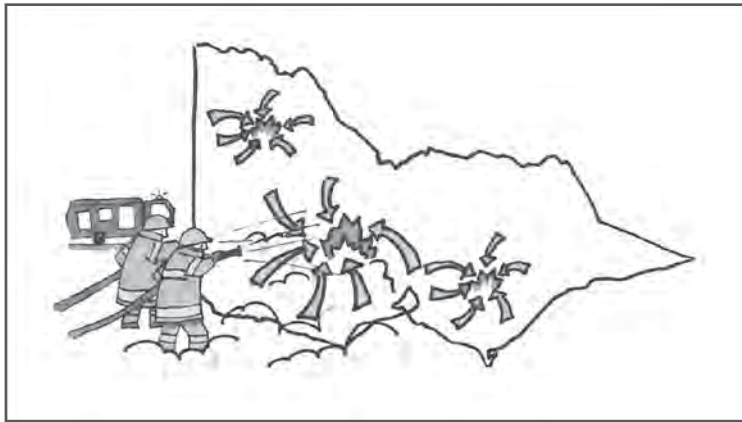
This year, the VFBV Support Officers have worked on initiatives, issues and projects including:

- VFBV Leadership Program – coordination of this successful volunteer scholarship program
- VFBV Multi Agency Youth Network – providing a local presence and networking with other emergency volunteer agencies as VFBV develops this new initiative in each District
- VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey – local promotion of the survey now used by VFBV, CFA, Emergency Management Victoria and the State Government as a source of volunteer opinion and feedback
- Networking - helping District Council Secretaries to build more effective contact systems and networks for information and volunteer feedback at the local level
- Brigade Delegate support – mentoring the new and assisting the experienced brigade representatives
- VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund – providing a local contact for confidential assistance to volunteers in need
- Organising VFBV and VFBV/CFA volunteer committees and working groups, providing support to volunteer representatives including research and information, and liaising with CFA on volunteer feedback and welfare matters

PROMOTING VOLUNTEERS' PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTION

VFBV's work to promote the professionalism and contribution of volunteers has become increasingly sophisticated, with communication of positive messaging through the volunteers themselves, local media and online.

There are multiple channels through which the association propagates messages about volunteers' professional levels of training, 24/7 response, local knowledge, operational and non-operational roles, diversity, CFA's role as a volunteer based and fully integrated emergency service, and its surge capacity, the ability to call on tens of thousands of trained, experienced firefighters at short notice anywhere in the state.

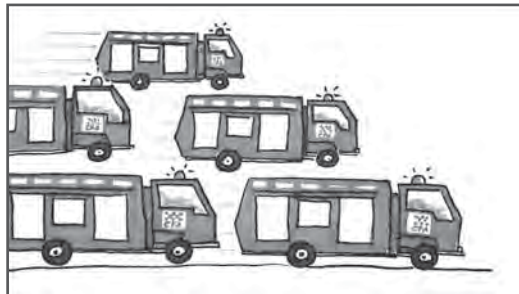


Throughout the year, VFBV assisted brigades in gaining local publicity to support fundraising and recruiting, carrying messages of volunteer professionalism and service to the community.

VFBV provided a local publicity kit to over 60 brigades,

provided training and assistance to numerous brigades, and the promotion of these messages is built into the VFBV Leadership Scholarship Program, support to Brigades applying for Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grants, training for VFBV District Council members, and support to Brigades engaging their Members of Parliament and other community leaders on local issues.

VFBV this year launched a cleverly designed animated video that shows the public in simple terms how Brigades across the state contribute to CFA's great volunteer surge capacity. The video was provided to CFA volunteer representatives around the State and posted online.



The video was an immediate success, with more than 50,000 views online, many through the actions of individual Facebook users who shared it on their own pages.

And while the animated video was achieving success with the public, VFBV was working with the University of Melbourne's Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety on an evidence based, computer-generated time lapse video that visually displays CFA's huge volunteer surge capacity.

The time lapse video shows incidents and crews responding from all parts of the state, and reveals the vital role that thousands of CFA volunteers in Brigades based in the greater Melbourne area have in providing front line crews to major incidents across the state.



With the computer generated elements sourced from CFA incident reports, the video is another aid to demonstrate to the public and community decision makers how essential CFA volunteers are for Victoria's safety and building community resilience.

You can see both videos on VFBV's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/VFBVTV

2016 VFBV STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

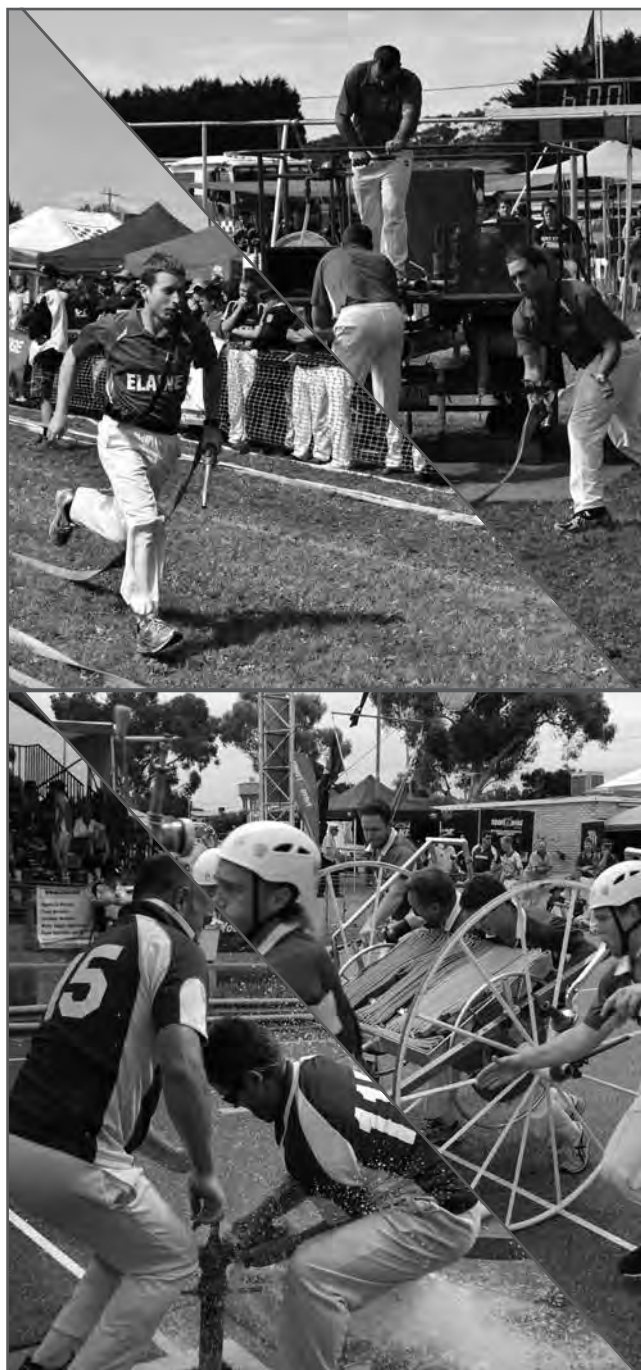
More than 7,000 supporters turned out to see 200 teams providing spectacular entertainment at the 2016 VFBV Urban and Rural State Championships.

Maryvale returned to the winners' circle at the Urban Seniors championship, and home team Tatura dominated the Urban Juniors.

Dunrobin/Nangeela took the senior honours at the rural championships and Springhurst came out on top in a nail biting finish at the rural junior championships.

VFBV sincerely thanks all the participating Brigades, teams, competitors and thousands of spectators for their support and attendance. The host committees at Mildura, Colac and Tatura again made a success of the huge task of running the events, and VFBV would also like to thank the municipal councils in the host towns for their support and many individual volunteers who helped out.

For all of our State Championships events, VFBV wishes to thank CFA and staff for their support, particularly the District Mechanical Staff and Tower Overseers. VFBV also extends its appreciation to major sponsors Hino for their generous support for volunteer championships, and the many other sponsors and trophy donors. Their support is an appreciable addition to these, the major social and sporting events in the volunteers' year.



Urban Championships

Maryvale took the honours as Champion Brigade at the 2016 VFBV Urban Championships at Mildura, having last taken the title in 2011.

Sixty-one teams and a crowd of 3,500 enjoyed good weather and the experienced local committee's preparations were rewarded with a smoothly run event.

Maryvale achieved eight wins and several placings, dominating the first two days of the championships, for the Brigade's 15th state title and one of its most emphatic wins.

Werribee won B Section with sheer consistency – they achieved one win and four placings – and Whittlesea won a closely contested C Section by a small margin from second placed Stanhope.

2016 AGGREGATE RESULTS

'A' SECTION

- 1st Maryvale 106 Points
- 2nd Kangaroo Flat 61 Points
- 3rd Melton 32 Points

'B' SECTION

- 1st Werribee 55 Points
- 2nd Patterson River 47 Points
- 3rd Sale 40 Points

'C' SECTION

- 1st Whittlesea 51 Points
- 2nd Stanhope 44 Points
- 3rd Knox Group 38 Points

Dry Aggregate

- 1st Kangaroo Flat 21 Points
- 2nd Maryvale 16 Points
- 3rd Bendigo 13 Points

Wet Aggregate

- 1st Maryvale 90 Points
- 2nd Werribee 46 Points
- 3rd Stanhope 44 Points

DISCIPLINE CONTEST

Section A:

- 1st Mildura 89.55%
- 2nd Melton 89.09%
- 3rd Narre Warren A 85.91%

Section B:

- 1st Patterson River 89.09%
- 2nd Echuca 85.91%
- 3rd Warracknabeal 84.09%

Section C:

- 1st Knox Group 91.36%
- 2nd Mornington 84.55%
- 3rd Pakenham 83.18%



Torchlight Procession:

Equal 1st Maffra A, Melton, Hoppers Crossing 93%

2016 CHAMPION BRIGADE: Maryvale

2016 CHAMPION COMPETITOR: Matt Royal (Maryvale)

WA/VIC Challenge Event Winner: Victoria



2016 URBAN CHAMPION BRIGADE: MARYVALE



2016 RURAL CHAMPIONS DUNROBIN/NANGEELA

Rural Championships

Dunrobin/Nangeela made their presence felt at the Rural Seniors championships, with three teams in the placings and Dunrobin/Nangeela B taking the honours for the highest points overall.

Greta A won the Division A title, and the championships made a big impression at

Colac, drawing 1,500 competitors from 39 Brigades and as many supporters in the crowd, filling the town with visitors.

The host committee at Colac had a great weekend, the event ran well and the home team made a number of appearances in the placings. Next year's rural championships will be at Wodonga.

2016 AGGREGATE RESULTS

DIVISION A AGGREGATE:

- 1st Greta A 64 Points
- 2nd Hurstbridge A 46 Points
- 3rd Greta B 42 Points

DIVISION B AGGREGATE:

- 1st Dunrobin/Nangeela B 74 Points
- 2nd Connewarre B 28 Points
- 3rd Strathmerton A 27 Points

DIVISION C AGGREGATE:

- 1st Plenty A 44 Points
- 2nd Dunrobin/Nangeela D 41 Points
- 3rd Dunrobin/Nangeela C 40 Points

DISCIPLINE AWARD: Katunga Brigade

HIGHEST POINTS OVERALL: Dunrobin/Nangeela B - 74 points



2016 VFBV STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Urban Junior Championships

Home team Tatura won its third Grand Aggregate in a row in grand style at this year's VFBV Urban Junior Championships, taking out the Under 14, Wet and Dry Aggregates.

In warm weather, the event drew a crowd of 2,000, with 700 junior competitors in 79 teams, including three teams from Western Australia.

Second placed Sale put in a strong performance in the Under 17 events, with four wins and three placings.

The event clearly distinguished itself as a tourist attraction, and drew a spontaneous offer from the City of Greater Shepparton to provide practical assistance that is set to stand the committee in good stead when it hosts next year's championships.

2016 AGGREGATE RESULTS

GRAND AGGREGATE

- 1st Tatura A 89 points
- 2nd Sale A 41 points
- 3rd Moe A 37 points

UNDER 14 YEARS AGGREGATE

- 1st Tatura A 61 points
- 2nd Koo Wee Rup A 26 points
- 3rd Melton A/Moe A 18 points

UNDER 17 YEARS AGGREGATE

- 1st Sale A 41 points
- 2nd Tatura A 28 points
- 3rd Moe A 23 points

DRY AGGREGATE:

- 1st Tatura A 57 points
- 2nd Sale A 26 points
- 3rd Koo Wee Rup A 18 points

WET AGGREGATE

- 1st Tatura A 32 points
- 2nd Moe A 24 points
- 3rd Sale A 15 points



2016 URBAN JUNIOR CHAMPION TEAM: TATURA A

Rural Junior Championships

The rural junior championships ended with an exciting three sided countback to reveal Springhurst as the winners.

Springhurst won three of the five events they contested, and Greta A won the 11 to 13 years Aggregate.

2016 AGGREGATE RESULTS

11-13 YEARS AGGREGATE

- 1st Greta A 36 Points
- 2nd Mandurang A 26 Points
- 3rd Sedgwick A 22 Points

11-15 YEARS AGGREGATE

- 1st Springhurst A 48 Points
- 2nd Dunrobin/Nangeela A 34 Points
- 3rd Ascot A 28 Points

CHAMPION TEAM (following a countback):

- 1st Springhurst A 48 Points
- 2nd Ascot A 48 Points
- 3rd Greta A 48 Points



2016 RURAL JUNIOR CHAMPION TEAM: SPRINGHURST A

Board



Nev Jones AFSM
State President 2015-2016
Board Member 2014-2016
n.jones@vfbv.com.au



Mick Nunweek JP
Board Member 2015-2017
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Adam Barnett
Executive Officer
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Graeme Jilbert
State Vice President 2015-16
Board Member 2015-2016
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Jenni Laing
Administration Officer
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Kara Bishop
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Angela Joy
Support Officer
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Craig Lawless
Support Officer



Sue Bull
Support Officer



Glenn Mercer
Support Officer
g.mercer@vfbv.com.au

Secretariat

VFBV BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The VFBV Annual General Meeting on 13 September 2015 noted the following appointments to the VFBV Board:

- Hans van Hamond AFSM
- Mick Nunweek
- Jill Parker
- Samantha Rothman

VFBV was also pleased to welcome Jill and Samantha who along with Hans and Mick have been selected from a quality field for two years, commencing 1 October 2015.

Graeme Jilbert and Gerry Neyenhuis were re-elected as the two State Council ex officio Board members for the year 2015/16.

Significant changes in the VFBV Board

Hans van Hamond AFSM did not re-nominate as State President, and the Board elected Nev Jones AFSM as State President for 2015/16, and Graeme Jilbert as State Vice President.



Hans served five terms as President and then State President since 2010/11, through times of considerable change. Having handed over the role of State President, he remains a member of the VFBV Board.



The last members of VFBV's original Board, Gary Lyttle AFSM and Tom Brodie AFSM, retired from the Board this year. Gary (pictured below, left) was VFBV's inaugural President after the amalgamation of the urban and rural associations in 2009. Gary and Tom (pictured above, right) were at the centre of great change, bringing VFBV from a daring new concept in 2002 to an

influential and well connected participant in the Emergency Management Sector today.

Gary and Tom remain among those the association will continue to look to for advice and experience when confronting new challenges.

CFA Board Association Nominees

The dismissal of the CFA Board on 17 June 2016 prompted an urgent call for volunteer nominated members of a new CFA Board. VFBV was heartened by the large number of quality candidates for the four volunteer-nominated positions on the CFA Board.

The CFA Act requires a skills based appointment process for CFA Board members, ensuring the Board has the professional capabilities to run a modern, volunteer-based emergency service organisation. Four of the nine Board Members are appointed by the Minister from a panel nominated by VFBV.

The successful candidates, appointed on 19 July, were:



Lynda Hamilton has been a CFA member since 2011, has held brigade management roles, and has a strong background in management consulting and change management.



Peter Shaw, is Deputy Group Officer with the Knox Fire Brigades Group and a volunteer firefighter since 1974, with a long history in Police and emergency services.



Hazel Clothier has been a CFA member since 2008, is currently Captain at Warburton Fire Brigade and has a background in biomedical science and epidemiology.



Timothy Young, a member of CFA since 1980, Timothy is Brigade Secretary and Treasurer at Little River Fire Brigade and has an extensive background in law.

VFBV would also like to acknowledge all of the nine members of the previous CFA Board, including volunteer-nominees Ross Coyle, James Holyman, John Schurink and Michael Tudball (As pictured below, left to right). Thank you to each and every one of you for your contribution, your values and your efforts, and in particular your stance on the future of CFA.

Thanks also to former Chief Officer Joe Buffone, who exercised his responsibilities and authority with honesty, integrity and compassion, and CEO Lucinda Nolan, who won the volunteers' admiration for her integrity, openness and strong leadership.

Thanks and praise for the work that all of these people have done for CFA during their time with us.



VFBV STATE COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS

	STATE COUNCILLORS	DISTRICT COUNCILS		STATE COUNCILLORS	DISTRICT COUNCILS
District 2	Ex Captain Geoff Browning Ex Captain Ron Cole Ex Captain Bill Maltby Captain Gary Parlby Captain Darryl Wagstaff AFSM	President Peter Thompson Secretary Peter Dillon	District 14	Lieutenant Sean Brittian Lieutenant James Stephens	President Chris Maries Secretary Damien Milloy
District 4	Firefighter Andy Cusack AFSM Ex Captain Peter White AFSM	President Kelvin Bateman Secretary Karyn Bothe	District 15	GO Shane Cramer Secretary Don Garlick	President Maurice Preston Secretary Trinsa Lewis
District 5	Firefighter Owen O'Keefe Ex Captain Malcolm Bishop	President Don Robertson Secretary Heather McIntyre	District 16	Firefighter Greg Fithall Ex Captain Mick Nunweek	President Peter Hannan Secretary Anna Subendranathan
District 6	Ex Captain Mike Evans Secretary Andrew Bath	President Brian Ritchie Secretary Margaret Evans	District 17	Group Officer John Davies Firefighter Maurice Dumesny	President Ronald Zanker Secretary Ian Plumridge
District 7	Ex Captain Fred Grove Ex Captain Gerry Neyenhuis Ex Captain Bruce Pickett AFSM	President Robert Clark Secretary Eddy Rees	District 18	Firefighter Graeme Jilbert GO Trevor Wyatt AFSM	President Rob Whateley Secretary Harold Jochs
District 8	Firefighter Jackie Crow Ex Lieutenant Charles Dennis Captain Timothy Desmond	President Eric Collier Secretary Max Johnson	District 20	Firefighter Keith Clough Ex Captain Rob Waterson AFSM	President Greg Murphy Secretary Bryan Picthall
District 9	DGO Robert Auchterlonie Firefighter John Austin	President Brian Brewer Secretary Amy Barbeler	District 22	Firefighter Phil Hawkey AFSM Ex Captain Phil Slender	President John Dunn Secretary Bill Stockdale
District 10	Ex Captain Mark Jones DGO Bryan Walpole	President Mark Jones Secretary Terry King	District 23	Secretary Mary Anne Egan Firefighter John Seymour	President Mick Jones Secretary Jim Buchan
District 11	Captain Geof Bassett Firefighter Philip Lind	President Des Ryan Secretary Ian Ashcroft	District 24	Firefighter Graham Cocks Captain Howard Smith	President Max Wood Secretary David Langshaw
District 12	Lieutenant James Holyman Firefighter Peter Sharman	President Mick Sanderson AFSM Secretary Alex Caughey	District 27	Firefighter Pat Quinn Firefighter David Farmer	President Lance King Secretary Di Billingsley
District 13	Lieutenant Paul Denham Firefighter Vickie Linaker	President Frank Whelan Secretary Eliza Sawyer			

Retired Members

Ex Captain Brian Ritchie (District 6)

Retired July 2015 – After 37 years with Colac Fire Brigade, Brian is now part of the District 6 Headquarters Brigade, an active instructor and assessor, and President of the VFBV District 6 Council.

Ex Captain Tom Brodie AFSM (District 22)

Retired August 2015 – a former VRFBA President, Tom served on the VRFBA and then VFBV State Councils for 25 years and was a member of VFBV's inaugural Board and numerous Joint Committees and Working Parties over the years.

New State Councillors



Secretary Andrew Bath (District 6)

A member of VFBV/CFA Joint Committee on Communications and Technology, Andrew has served as Comms Officer and Secretary to the Beeac Group, and is the long serving Secretary of Colac Fire Brigade. He has been a CFA volunteer for over 30 years, and has been an enthusiastic championship competitor and coach.



DGO David Farmer (District 27)

A long serving CFA volunteer, David has been Secretary and later Captain with Glengarry West. He has served as a Group Officer and is now a DGO with the Highland Group and a volunteer with Glengarry Fire Brigade.



Ex Lieutenant Pat Quinn (District 27)

Pat is a volunteer of over 35 years with the Morwell Fire Brigade, a long serving 1st Lieutenant, and a Group Comms officer. He is from a true CFA family, with his wife, brother, sons and daughter all local volunteers.



Firefighter Phil Hawkey AFSM (District 22)

Phil is a volunteer of nearly 40 years' service, having been a member of the Rochester, Nathalia and Euroa Brigades. He has been a Group Officer and served as District 22 President with the VRFBA. Phil is a volunteer trainer and assessor, a

Fire Investigator and Level 3 Incident Controller.

New Life Members

This year VFBV granted Life Membership to two long serving volunteer representatives: Geof Bassett (Lakes Entrance) and Phil Slender (Tatura).

State Council Executive Committee

The State Council Executive Committee makes recommendations to State Council on strategic/process matters and issues raised by District Councils. State Council members representing Brigades with a predominantly structure risk profile nominate nine members and State Council members representing Brigades with a predominantly bushfire risk profile nominate nine members.

Members of the State Council Executive Committee in 2015/16 were:

Rob Auchterlonie, Sean Brittan, Keith Clough, Jackie Crow, Charles Dennis, Tim Desmond, Mary Anne Egan, Phil Hawkey, Mark Jones, Bill Maltby, Mick Nunweek, Owen O'Keefe, Bruce Pickett, Howard Smith, James Stephens, Rob Waterson, Peter White, Trevor Wyatt

District Council retirements

VFBV thanks the following retired members for their contribution to District Councils:

District 2	Secretary Terri Boyle (July 2015)
District 5	President Bill Pressey AFSM (Aug/Sept 2015)
District 6	President Bob Mason (July 2015)
District 9	President Bill Rodda AFSM (June 2016)
District 9	Secretary Andrew Grant (June 2016)
District 13	President Bill Watson AFSM (February 2016)
District 13	Secretary Catherine McLeod (July 2015)
District 20	Secretary Graeme Watson (Sept/Oct 2015)

CONSULTATIVE FRAMEWORK

VFBV continues to build volunteer involvement in Emergency Management Sector decisions through the State Government's Volunteer Consultative Forum (VCF) and advocating on key issues with key decision makers. A series of inquiries and reviews have expanded key decision makers' contact with volunteers at VFBV's request, and VFBV's work on a variety of issues has equipped volunteers to work direct with local MPs.

The result of a VFBV proposal, the VCF gives volunteers regular face to face meetings with the Emergency Services Minister and senior staff.

These connections complement VFBV's network of Board, State Council, District Councils, Group and Brigade engagement opportunities, which which VFBV unparalleled reach into the grass roots to ensure all decisions and representatives are well informed by rank and file members and local consultative forums.

Joint Committees

The VFBV/CFA Joint Committees are part of the direct line of communication between volunteers and state level decision makers. The committees have worked on issues including;

Communications & Technology

Pager Replacement
Current Pager improvements
Scanners/Listening Sets
Analogue Channel Deactivations
ESTA Radio Patching of Districts
Improvements to Burnoff Registrations
Additional Flexibility in Pre-determined Strike Team Dispatch

Community Safety

Planned Burning Training
Integrated Fire Management Planning
Events and Activities Reporting Tool
Tyre Stockpiling
CFA/SES Community Engagement and

Hazard Awareness Forum
Beekeepers' Guide
Vegetation Clearing Tool
Community Safety Coordinator Survey
Windfarm Policy
Fire Safety Pledge
CFA Market Research – Public Trust

Equipment and Infrastructure

Brigade Owned Vehicle Insurance
Prototype Heavy Tanker
Fire Station Modifications
Tanker Microphones
Seat Belt Inhibitor Clips
Vehicle Weight Calculations
Class B Foam Changeover Forum
Upgrades to Bell UHPSS
Medium Tanker Production Updates
Cold Climate Jackets
Ultralight Crew Protection System
Fleet Replacement Program

HR, Welfare and OH&S

VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey
Volunteer Loss of Income Compensation for Over 65s
Fiskville Parliamentary Inquiry Recommendations
Resolving Conflicts Within Brigades
Volunteer Discipline Processes and Procedures
Training Related Injuries
Volunteer Code of Conduct and CFA Values
Volunteer Leadership & Management Skills Development
District OH&S Committee Reporting

Operations

Fatigue Management
Sector Commander Course
Composite Strike Teams
Low Voltage Fuse Removal
0.00 BAC for Code 1 Emergency Response Driving
Volunteer Utilisation on IMTs
Emergency Medical Response (EMR)
Role of Group

Training

Volunteer Trainers and Assessors
First Aid Training
Driver Training/Licensing
BA Helmet Decals
Recognition of Medical Practitioners, Paramedics and Nurses
Brown Coal Mine Firefighting Training
CFA F&EM Training Strategy Survey Results

Volunteerism

Brigade Management Team Workshops
Volunteerism Strategy
Volunteer Exit Survey
Junior Member Service Recognition
National Emergency Medal
Honours and Awards Nominators Guide
Victorian Young Achiever Awards
Australian National Firefighter Cadet Championships
Australasian Firefighters' Championship
CFA Volunteerism Strategy Implementation
Latrobe University Aspire Early Admission Program
Junior Member I.D. Cards
Bushfire National Hazards CRC – Volunteer research

JOINT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

Dave Arnott	Andrew Bath	Keith Clough	Shane Cramer	Neil Dusting
David Farmer	Mark Hooper	Gerry Neyenhuis	Col Pomroy	Peter Sharman
Gary Taylor				

COMMUNITY SAFETY

John Austin	Alex Caughey	Bruce Conboy	Mary Anne Egan	Don Garlick
Fred Grove	Phil Lind	Jill Parker	Bruce Vine	Ian Walter

EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Noel Austin	Tom Brodie	Mark Jones	Owen O'Keefe	Gary Parlby
Bruce Pickett	John Seymour	Phil Slender	Toddy Small	Darren Wallace
Rob Waterson	Peter White	Trevor Wyatt		

HR, WELFARE & OH&S

Robert Auchterlonie	Ian Hannaford	Vicki Linaker	Colin Newell	Lesley Read
Bill Rodda	Hans van Hamond	Darryl Wagstaff	Ross Walker	Bill Watson

OPERATIONS

Geof Bassett	Ron Cole	Andy Cusack	Charles Dennis	Timothy Desmond
Gary Fitzgerald	Phil Hawkey	Michael Howard	Nev Jones	Adrian Marshman
Trevor Roche	Peter Shaw			

TRAINING

Eric Collier	John Davies	Paul Denham	Colin James	Graeme Jilbert
Harold Jochs	Ashley McGraw	Greg McIntyre	Howard Smith	James Stephens
Jeffrey Swain				

VOLUNTEERISM

Malcolm Bishop	Geoff Browning	Graham Cocks	Jackie Crow	Maurice Dumesny
John Nieman	Pat Quinn	Sam Rothman	Brian Walpole	Brian West

ASSOCIATION HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Pre-1954	M.W. Carver J.K. Stokes C. Ford (Miners Rest) D.M. Cameron	1981	A.E. King AFSM D.J. McEachern OAM (Wodonga) E.C. Caddy (Drouin) L.W. Peters	2000 2001 2003	D.W. Adams (Carrum) R.E. Schultz AFSM (Benalla) P.J. White AFSM (Casterton) H. van Hamond AFSM (Wendouree) P.E. Davis AFSM (Carrum) L.C. Doye (Golden Square) J.L. Laing
1955	J.L. Allen	1983	R. Jones	2004	R.W. Waterson AFSM (Cohuna)
1956	W.B. Richardson BEM (Wangaratta)		D.H. Lade QFSM (Highlands/Caveat)	2005	B.A. Pickett AFSM (Geelong West)
1959	J.R.C. Plante (Lilydale) M. Steward OBE (Warragul) J. Reilly (Taradale) H.M. O'Rorke MBE (Lake Bolac)	1984 1985	D.E. Gow (Leitchville) K.W. Talbot OAM (Dandenong) R. Collier OAM (Portarlinton) G.T. Evans OAM (Echuca) M.E. Johnson QFSM (Traralgon)	2006 2007	R. Hill (Paynesville) G.J. Kennedy (Loch) G.N. Lyttle AFSM (Cardigan)
1961	H.W. Wade (Natimuk)		J. McLeod AFSM (Boronia)	2009	S.M. O Callaghan (Warracknabeal)
1962	I.A. Swinburne MLC		P.G. Mullins (Maryborough)		T.J. Brodie AFSM (Longwood)
1966	W.H. Barnes (Chelsea) H. Brown (Golden Square) S.G.W. Burston OBE (Casterton) T.F. Hayes (Violet Town) W. Jones BEM AFSM (Moorooduc) L.J. Slattery (Kyabram) A.E.J. Turton (Wodonga)	1986 1987	R.K. Patterson AFSM (Portland) H.W. Stewart (Broadford) E.J. Baynes AFSM OAM (Indigo Valley) M.W. Dawson OAM (Avoca) L.J. Baillie (Warrnambool) B.C. Condict AFSM JP (Tarnagulla)		P. Downes (Mandurang) R.A. Horner AFSM (Sassafras/Ferny Creek) O.T. O'Keefe (Winslow) W.R. Rodda AFSM (Korumburra) J.I. Thomson (Sunbury)
1967	E.E. Allen (Kaniva) S.M. Begley (Colac) T.H. Grigg CBE (Maldon) Dr P.S. Lang	1988 1990	D.A. Austin QFSM ED L.V. Winsall AFSM (Warracknabeal) G.H. Baxter AFSM (Freshwater Creek) K.H. Larsen AFSM (Belmont)	2010 2011	B. Conboy (Mt Martha) R. MacDonald (Carlsruhe) W.T. Pressey AFSM (Mortlake) B. Vine AFSM (Tawonga)
1968	F.C.B. Minchin J.S. Tabuteau (Moe)	1993	J.N. McEachern (Wodonga) W.E. Davies AFSM (Walmer) W.H. Royal AFSM (Bairnsdale)	2012	B. Pyke (Whanregarwen) B. Snell (Hamilton) M.R. Jones (Stratford)
1970	D. Campbell (Springvale) S.C. Diffey MBE MC OAM (Springhurst) H. Lester-Smith MBE (Kerang) L.J. Maguire (Boronia) W.M. Reid (Mooroopna)	1992 1993	M.J. Taylor AFSM (Mornington) L.L. Thomason AFSM (Woodend) G.A. Ellis (Bendigo) M.J. Sanderson AFSM (Seymour) Q.T. Turner AFSM (Creswick)	2013	P. Denham (Boronia) A. Cusack (Mumbannar) T. Desmond (Dromana) M. Evans (Barongarook) P. Lind (Mount Taylor)
1971	H.L. King		P.R. Bishop (Mildura)		B. Maltby (Castlemaine)
1972	E.J. Barrett (Geelong City) R.A. Dore BEM JP (Carrum) W.H. Rowe (Maldon)	1994	G.C. Dare (Colac) R.D. Walker (Kerang)	2014	C. Pomroy (Longford) C. Dennis (Frankston) M. Nunweek (Stawell)
1973	H.G. Kyle AFSM (Bengworden)	1995	R.G. Jacobs AFSM OAM (Chelsea) B.M. Maher AFSM (Lubeck)		D. Wagstaff (Maryborough) T. Wyatt AFSM JP (Murrayville)
1975	N.H. Jenkins (Kyneton)		J.C. McMillan (Moe) H.B. Morris (Avoca)	2015	G.W. Bassett (Lakes Entrance) P Slender (Tatura)
1976	C.J.H. Drife BEM (Clunes) W.G. Wilson OAM (Shepparton)		R.D. Gartside (Castlemaine) A.J. Hooper AFSM (Winnindoo)		
1979	A.I. Laidlaw BEM AFSM (Willaura) C.T.N. Stone (Diamond Creek)	1997 1998	R.A.C. McDonald (Bowser)		
1980	R.J. Jilbert (Swan Hill)	1999			



Vale Alan King AFSM

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria was saddened to learn of the passing of Association Life Member, Editor of The Fireman, and lifelong supporter of CFA and volunteers, Alan King AFSM.

Alan was a former volunteer with Carrum Fire Brigade, an

Honorary Member of Patterson River Fire Brigade and a member of VFBV's History Committee.

The unique nature of his contribution is exemplified by the fact that he was awarded Life Memberships of both the VUFBA and the VRFBA before the two associations merged to form VFBV. In 2005, Alan was also awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for his contribution over 30 years as the Editor of The Fireman.

Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM)

This year 10 CFA volunteers received the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM), the highest award for members of the Australian fire services, for their long, distinguished service.

Peter Bishop AFSM – for his service as a long serving volunteer officer, CFA Board Member and VUFBA President, and active involvement in championships since 1962.

Colin Booth AFSM – for distinguished service as Captain of Narre Warren CFA, as a Fire Investigator, and in the development of many juniors who have become senior volunteers.

John Haynes AFSM – for more than 30 years' service, starting as a junior at Traralgon, and going as high as Deputy Chief Officer, known for developing improvements to Incident Control Centres and Incident Management Teams in the wake of the 2009 fires.

Graham Healey AFSM – for more than 50 years of service as a CFA volunteer in Brigades around the state, and as a staff member rising as high as Assistant Chief Officer.

Greg Kennedy AFSM – for service as a mentor, local fire safety campaigner, firefighter and designer of innovative programs for recruitment, training and development of members with South Warrandyte CFA.

Rick Owen AFSM – for 30 years' service, rising to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant before becoming a career member and distinguishing himself with research and trials that improved hygiene procedures and protection of the public and firefighters.

Gregg Paterson AFSM – for service beginning as a volunteer in 1978 to serving as Deputy Chief Officer, including managing major incidents on Ash Wednesday and in February 2009.

John Pearce AFSM – for 40 years' service as a volunteer including holding the position of Group Officer, and as a staff member. John is known for fostering a successful partnership with local SES units during major flooding in 2011.

Colin Squires AFSM – for more than 50 years service and his significant role in establishing links with the culturally and linguistically diverse sectors of the community.

Darryl Wagstaff AFSM – for long, distinguished service since joining as a junior, including 27 years as Captain of a Brigade and a mentor to many volunteers.

VFBV Gold Star Awards

Congratulations go to all of the recipients of the VFBV Gold Star for 30 years' service to the Association.

This year 38 long serving volunteers from 21 brigades were awarded the VFBV Gold Star, they are:

Bairnsdale
L G Beechey

Ballarat
R E Kneeshaw
P I Rinaldi

Boneo
J Boyle
R I Clayton
K R Newnham

Creswick
S J Ellis
M Spenceley

Crib Point
J C Fletcher
G A Watson

Dromana
T G Desmond

Drouin
D Fox

Epping
F Ciechomski
M Maher

Hoppers Crossing
W Nuske

Kangaroo Flat
D Browning
A Smith

Maldon
P Thompson

Melton
D Sweet
R Sweet

Moe
R Day
P Dewsbury
S Mounsey

Morwell
S Darling
J Holland
D Lovison
P Quinn

Mossi-Tambo
D Skinner

Narre Warren North
L Barry
S Trotter

Seymour
G Hard
J Madex

Sorrento
A Nettleford
P A Schmidt

Wendouree
D Nestor

Werribee
G Cockram
P Trifilo

Yallourn North
P Tabaczynski



2015/2016 AFFILIATED BRIGADES AND GROUPS

District 2

Axe Creek
 Axedale
 Baringhup West
 Bealiba
 Bendigo
 Benloch
 Bolinda & Monegeetta
 Bowenvale
 Bullengarook
 Campbells Creek
 Carisbrook
 Carlsruhe
 Castlemaine
 Chewton
 Clarkefield & District
 Darraweit Guim
 District 2 Headquarters
 Dunolly
 Eaglehawk
 Elmore
 Elphinstone
 Eppalock Group
 Fortuna Group
 Fryerstown
 Gisborne
 Golden Square
 Goldfields Group
 Goornong
 Guildford
 Harcourt
 Heathcote
 Heskett-Kerrie
 Hunter-Diggora
 Huntly
 Junortoun
 Kamarooka
 Kangaroo Flat
 Knowsley
 Kyneton
 Kyneton Group
 Lake Eppalock Coast
 Guard
 Lancefield
 Langley-Barfold
 Lockwood
 Macedon

Maiden Gully
 Maldon
 Maldon Group
 Malmsbury
 Mandurang
 Marong
 Maryborough
 Metcalfe
 Mia Mia
 Moolort & Joyces Creek
 Mosquito Creek
 Mount Macedon
 Mount Macedon Group
 Mt Camel
 Mt Cameron
 Natte Yallock
 Newham
 Newstead & District
 Oscar 1 Emergency
 Response
 Pastoria
 Raywood
 Redesdale
 Riddell's Creek
 Romsey
 Romsey Group
 Sedgwick
 Spring Hill
 Springfield
 Strathfieldsaye
 Sutton Grange & Myrtle
 Ck
 Talbot
 Taradale
 Tylden
 Walmer
 Wareek & Bung Bong
 Whipstick Group
 Woodend
 Woodvale

District 4

Bahgallah
 Carapook
 Cashmore
 Casterton
 Casterton Group

Condah
 Dartmoor
 Dartmoor Group
 Digby
 District 4 Headquarters
 Drik Drik
 Drumborg
 Dunrobin & Nangeela
 Glenorchy Estate
 Gorae West
 Grassdale
 Heathmere
 Henty
 Heywood
 Heywood Group
 Lake Mundi
 Lindsay
 Lyons
 Merino
 Merino Group
 Milltown
 Morven
 Mumbannar
 Myamyn
 Narrawong
 Nelson
 Paschendale
 Portland
 Portland Coast Guard
 Sandford
 Strathdownie
 Strathdownie Group
 Tahara
 Tahara West
 Tyrendarra
 Wallacedale
 Wando Bridge
 Wando Vale

District 5

Abbey Hills
 Allansford
 Ardachy
 Ardonachie
 Bainbridge
 Balmoral
 Belfast Group

Bessiebelle
 Bochara
 Branxholme
 Broadwater
 Buckley Swamp
 Bulart
 Burn Brae
 Byaduk
 Caramut
 Cavendish
 Codrington
 Coleraine
 Croxton East
 Cudgee
 Culla
 District 5 Headquarters
 Dundas Group
 Dunkeld
 Ellerslie
 Framlingham
 Garvoc
 Gazette
 Glenthompson
 Grange
 Gringe
 Gritjurk
 Hamilton
 Hawkesdale
 Hexham
 Hilgay Settlers
 Hopkins - Curdies
 Group
 Karabeal
 Kirkstall
 Knebsworth
 Kolora
 Konongwootong
 Koroit
 Linlithgow
 Macarthur
 Macarthur Group
 Melville Forest
 Mepunga
 Merri Group
 Minhamite
 Mooralla
 Mortlake

Mortlake Group
 Mount Rouse Group
 Muntham
 Nareen
 Nareen Group
 Naringal
 Nirranda South
 North Balmoral
 North Byaduk
 North Hamilton
 Nullawarre
 Penshurst
 Peterborough
 Pigeon Ponds
 Port Fairy
 Purnim
 Ripponhurst
 St Helens
 Strathkellar
 Strathmore
 Tarrayoukyan
 Tarrenlea
 Tarrington
 The Sisters
 Toolong
 Vasey
 Victoria Valley
 Wando Heights
 Warrayure-Moutajup
 Warrnambool
 Warrnambool Coast
 Guard
 Warrong
 Willatook & District
 Winslow & Yarpurk
 Woodford
 Woodhouse
 Woolsthorpe
 Wooriwyrite
 Wootong Vale
 Yambuk
 Yulecart

District 6

Apollo Bay
 Barongarook West
 Barwon Downs

Beeac
 Beeac Group
 Berrybank
 Birregurra
 Bookaar
 Boorcan
 Bostocks Creek
 Brucknell-Ayrford
 Bungador
 Camperdown
 Camperdown Group
 Carlisle River
 Carpendeit-Sth
 Purumbete
 Chocolyn
 Cobden
 Cobden Group
 Cobrico
 Colac
 Corangamite Group
 Cororooke
 Cressy
 Darlington
 Derrinallum
 District 6 Headquarters
 Dixie
 Duverney
 Ecklin & District
 Elingamite - Glenfyne
 Forrest
 Gellibrand
 Gerangamete
 Irrewarra
 Irrewillipe
 Jancourt
 Kawarren
 Kennedy's Creek
 Larpent
 Leslie Manor
 Lismore
 Lismore Group
 Lower Heytesbury
 Mingay & District
 Nalangil
 Noorat & District
 Otway
 Pomborneit & Dist

Port Campbell
 Princetown
 Scotts Ck-Cowleys Ck.
 Simpson
 Stonyford
 Swan Marsh
 Terang
 Tesbury
 Timboon
 Timboon Group
 Vite Vite North
 Warrion
 Weering-Eurack
 Weerite
 Wye River
 Yeo & District
 Yeodene

District 7

Aireys Inlet
 Anglesea
 Bannockburn
 Barrabool
 Barwon Heads
 Bellarine Group
 Belmont
 Connearre
 Corio
 Deans Marsh
 Dereel
 District 7 Headquarters
 Drysdale
 Freshwater Creek
 Geelong City
 Geelong Coast Guard
 Geelong Group
 Geelong West
 Gnarwarre
 Grovedale
 Highton
 Inverleigh
 Lara
 Leigh Group
 Leopold
 Lethbridge
 Lorne
 Lovely Banks

2015/2016 AFFILIATED BRIGADES AND GROUPS CONTINUED

Mannerim
Maude
Meredith
Modewarre
Mount Mercer
Ocean Grove
Portarlington
Queenscliff
Queenscliff Coast
Guard
Rokewood
Shelford
St Leonards-Indented
Head
Stonehaven
Teesdale
Torquay
Wallington
Werneth
Winchelsea
Wingeel
Wurdale

District 8

Balharring
Bass
Bass Coast Group
Baxter
Bayles
Beaconsfield
Beaconsfield Upper
Berwick
Bittern
Boneo
Bunyip
Carrum Coast Guard
Carrum Downs
Casey Group
Clyde
Cockatoo
Corinella
Cranbourne
Crib Point
Dalyston
Dandenong
Devon Meadows
District 8 Headquarters

Dromana
Edithvale
Flinders
Frankston
Frankston Coast Guard
French Island
Gembrook
Hallam
Hampton Park
Hastings
Hastings Coast Guard
Heath Hill - Yannathan
Kernot

Keysborough
Kilcunda
Koo Wee Rup
Lang Lang
Langwarrin
Main Ridge
Maryknoll & District
Moorooduc
Mornington
Mt Eliza
Mt Martha
Nar Nar Goon
Narre Warren
Narre Warren North
Noble Park
Officer
Pakenham
Pakenham Upper
Patterson River
Pearcedale
Peninsula Group
Phillip Island
Red Hill
Rosebud
Rye
Safety Beach Coast
Guard
San Remo
Sandringham Coast
Guard
Shoreham
Skye
Somers
Somerville

Sorrento
South East Group
Springvale
Toomuc
Tooradin
Tyabb
Tynong
Warneet - Blind Bight
Westernport Group
Wonthaggi

District 9

Allambee
Baw Baw Group
Berry's Creek
Darnum & Ellinbank
Drouin
Drouin West
Dumbalk
Erica & District
Fish Creek & District
Foster
Hallora & District
Hallston-Mt Eccles
Hedley
Inverloch
Kongwak & District
Koonwarra
Korumburra
Leongatha
Leongatha South
Loch
Longwarry & District
Meeniyang & Stony
Creek
Milford
Mirboo North
Neerim South
Nilma North
Noojee
Poowong
Port Welshpool Coast
Guard
Pound Creek
Ruby
South Gippsland Group
Tarwin Lower District

Thorpdale
Toora
Trafalgar
Trida
Warragul
Welshpool
Westbury
Willowgrove
Yanakie
Yarragon

District 10

Alberton West
Avon Group
Boisdale
Briagolong
Clydebank
Coongulla
Cowwarr
Dargo
Devon North
Giffard West
Glenmaggie
Golden Beach
Heyfield
Jack River
Licola
Loch Sport
Longford
Macalister Group
Maffra
Meerlieu
Munro
Newry
Perry Bridge
Port Albert
Port Albert Coast
Guard
Sale
Seaspray
Seaton
Stradbroke
Stradbroke Group
Stratford
Thomson Group
Tinamba
Valencia Creek

Willung
Willung South
Winnindoo
Won Wron
Woodside
Woranga
Yarram

District 11

Bairnsdale
Bemm
Bendoc
Bengworden
Bruthen
Cann Valley
District 11
Headquarters
Ensay
Fernbank
Flaggy Creek
Gelantipy
Glenaladale
Goongerah
Hillside
Johnsonville
Lakes Entrance
Lakes Entrance Coast
Guard
Lindenow South
Mallacoota
Marlo Coast Guard
Metung
Mitchell Group
Mossi - Tambo
Mount Taylor
Newmerella
Omeo
Orbost
Paynesville
Paynesville Coast
Guard
Sarsfield
Swift's Creek
Tambo Group
Toorloo
Wairewa

District 12

Acheron
Alexandra
Alexandra
Broadford
Buxton
Clonbinane
District 12
Headquarters
Eildon
Flowerdale
Glenaroua
Glenburn
Highlands-Caveat
Hilldene
Homewood
Kilmore
Kinglake District
Kinglake West
Koriella
Limestone
Marysville
Mitchell Shire Group
Molesworth
Murrindindi &
Woodbourne
Narbethong
Nulla Vale
Seymour
Strath Creek-Reedy
Creek
Taggerty
Tallarook
Terip Terip
Tooborac
Toolangi
Trawool
Wallan
Wandong
Whanregarwen
Whiteheads Creek-
Tarcombe
Yarck
Yea
Yea Group

District 13

Badger Creek
Bayswater
Belgrave
Belgrave Heights &
South
Boronia
Clematis
Coldstream
District 13
Headquarters
Dixons Creek
Emerald
Ferntree Gully
Gruyere
Healesville
Hillcrest
Hoddle's Creek
Kallista-The Patch
Kalorama & Mt
Dandenong
Knox Group
Lilydale
Little Yarra
Macclesfield
Maroondah Group
Menzies Creek
Monbulk
Montrose
Mooroolbark
Mt Evelyn
Narre Warren East
Olinda
Reefton
Rowville
Sassafras & Ferny
Creek
Scoresby
Selby
Seville
Silvan
South Warrandyte
The Basin
Upper Ferntree Gully
Upwey
Wandin
Warburton
Warrandyte

2015/2016 AFFILIATED BRIGADES AND GROUPS

Wesburn-Millgrove
Wonga Park
Yarra Glen
Yarra Junction
Yarra Valley Group
Yellingbo

District 14

Arthurs Creek
Bulla
Caroline Springs
Christmas Hills
Craigieburn
Diamond Creek
Diggers Rest
District 14
Headquarters
District 14
Headquarters East
Doreen
Eltham
Epping
Eyensbury
Greenvale
Hoppers Crossing
Hume Group
Hurstbridge
Kal Kallo
Kangaroo Ground
Melton
Mernda
Mount Cottrell Group
Nillumbik Group
North Warrandyte
Panton Hill
Plenty
Point Cook
Research
Rockbank
South Morang
St Andrews
Sunbury
Toolern Vale
Truganina
Wattle Glen
Werribee
Werribee Coast Guard

Whittlesea
Whittlesea/D.Valley
Group
Wildwood
Wollert & District
Wyndham Vale
Yarrambat

District 15

Ascot & District
Bacchus Marsh
Bacchus Marsh Group
Ballan
Ballan Group
Ballarat
Ballarat City
Ballarat Group
Balliang & District
Blackwood
Bungaree
Buninyong
Buninyong Group
Burrumbeet
Cape Clear
Cardigan & Windermere
Clunes
Coimadai
Creswick
Daylesford
Elaine
Glen Park
Glendaruel & Mt
Beckworth
Glenlyon
Gordon
Greendale
Grenville Group
Haddon
Hardies Hill
Hepburn
Invermay
Kingston
Learmonth-Addington
Leonards Hill & District
Linton
Mannibadar
Millbrook

Miners Rest
Mollonghip
Morrison & District
Mt Buninyong
Mt Egerton
Mt Wallace
Mt Warrenheip
Musk
Myrning
Napoleons-Enfield
Newlyn Dean
Parwan
Porcupine Ridge
Rokewood Junction &
Dist
Rowsley
Sebastopol
Smeaton
Smythesdale
Trentham
Ullina
Wallace
Wallinduc & District
Waubra
Wendouree

District 16

Amphitheatre
Ararat
Ararat Group
Avoca
Barkly & Frenchman's
Beaufort
Beaufort Group
Beazley's Bridge
Bornes Hill
Brewster
Burnbank
Callawadda
Carapooee
Carranballac
Chatsworth
Coonooer Bridge
Cross Roads
Crowlands
Dadswells Bridge
District 16

Headquarters
Dundonnell
Elmhurst
Glenorchy & Riachella
Gooroc
Gre Gre Village
Great Western
Halls Gap
Joel Joel
Kooreh
Lake Bolac
Lake Goldsmith-
Stockyard
Landsborough
Langi Kal Kal
Langi Logan
Lexton
Marnoo
Maroona
Mininera
Moyston
Narrapumelap South
Nerrin Nerrin
Pomonal
Pura Pura
Pyrenees Group
Raglan
Skipton
Slaty Creek
Snake Valley & District
St Arnaud
Stawell
Stawell Group
Stoneleigh
Streatham
Stuart Mill
Tatyoan
Traynor's Lagoon
Wallaloo East
Warrak
Westmere
Westmere Group
Wickliffe
Willaura
Woorndoo
Yalla Y Poora

District 17

Antwerp
Apsley
Areegra
Bangerang
Benayeo
Boolite
Brim
Brimpaen
Bringalbert South
Broughton
Cannum
Charam
Chetwynd
Clear Lake
Coromby
Crymelon
Dergholm
Detpa & Lake
Hindmarsh
Diapur
Dimboola
Dinyarrak
District 17
Headquarters
Dooen
Douglas
Dunmunkle Group
Edenhope
Goroke
Goroke Group
Grass Flat
Green Lake
Gymbowen
Harrow
Horsham
Jeparit
Jilpanger Group
Jung
Kadnook
Kaniva
Kaniva Group
Karnak
Kellalac
Kenmare
Lah
Laharum

Langkoop
Lawloit
Leeor
Lorquon
Lubeck
Miga Lake
Minimay
Minyip
Murtoa
Natimuk
Netherby
Neuarpurr
Nhill
Noradjuha
North Wimmera
Ozenkadnook
Patyah
Peronne
Pigick
Pimpinio
Poolajelo
Propodollah
Rainbow
Rainbow Group
Rupanyup
Sandsmere
Sheep Hills
South Lillimur
Tarranyurk
Telangatuk
Telopea Downs
Ullswater
Vectis
Warracknabeal
Werrap
Wilkur South
Willenabrina
Winiam & District
Wonwondah
Woorak
Yanac
Yearinga - Yarrock

District 18
Annuello
Berriwillock
Beulah

Beverford & District
Birchip
Boundary Bend
Buckrabanyule
Buloke West Group
Charlton
Charlton Group
Chinkapook
Cope Cope
Corack East
Curyo
Donald
Dumosa
Glenloth East
Goschen
Hopetoun
Hopetoun West
Irymple
Jeffcott
Kooloonong
Laen East
Lake Boga
Lascelles
Manangatang
Merbein
Mid Murray Group
Mildura
Mittyack
Murrayville
Nangiloc
Narraport
Natya
Nullawil
Nyah Nyah West
Ouyen
Ouyen and District
Group
Piangil
Red Cliffs
Reedy Dam
Robinvale
Rosebery
Sea Lake
Speed
Sunraysia Group
Swan Hill
Teddywaddy

2015/2016 AFFILIATED BRIGADES AND GROUPS

Tempy	Murphy's Creek	Currawa	Undera	Maindample	Bullioh	Tawonga
Ultima	Murrabit	Dookie	Upton Hill	Mansfield	Burrowye	Tintaldra
Underbool	Mysia	Drumanure	Violet Town	Mansfield Group	Carlyle	Wahgunyah
Waitchie	Newbridge	Earlston	Violet Town Group	Merton	Chiltern	Walwa
Walpeup	Northern Campaspe	Euroa	Waaia	Milawa	Cornishtown	Wodonga
Warmur	Group	Euroa Group	Wahring	Molyullah	Corryong	Wodonga Group
Watchem	Pine Grove	Gooram	Wilby	Moyhu	Corryong Group	Wodonga West
Watchupga	Powlett-Salisbury	Kaarimba	Wirrate	Moyhu Group	Cudgewa	Wooragee
Wemen	Pyramid Hill	Karramomus	Wunghnu	Mt Buller	Dartmouth	Yackandandah
Woomelang	Quambatook	Katamatite	Yabba North	Myrree	Dederang	
Woorinen South	Rheola	Katandra	Yalca & Yielima	Oxley	District 24	District 27
Wooroonook	Rochester	Katunga	Yarrowonga	Oxley Flats	Headquarters	Boolarra
Wycheproof	Rushworth	Kelvin View	Yarrowonga Group	Samaria	Eskdale	Callignee
Yaapeet	Sandhill Lake & District	Kialla & District	Yarroweyah	South Wangaratta	Falls Creek	Churchill
Yeungroon	Stanhope	Koonda		Springhurst	Gapsted	Driffield
	Tarnagulla	Kotupna		Stewarton	Granya	Flynn
District 20	Terrick Group	Locksley	District 23	Swanpool	Gundowring	Glangarry
Bamawm Extension	Tongala	Longwood	Baddaginnie	Taminick & North	Harrietville	Hazelwood North
Beauchamp	Toolleen	Marraweeny	Barjarg	Winton	Indigo Valley	Hyland Group
Boort	Torrumbarry	Merrigum	Benalla	Tarrawingee & District	Kergunyah	Maryvale
Bridgewater	Waranga Group	Miepoll	Benalla Group	Tatong	Kiewa	Merton Group
Campbells Forest	Wedderburn	Molka	Bobinawarrah	Thoona	Lake Hume Coast	Moe
Cohuna	Wedderburn Group	Moorilim	Bonnie Doon	Tolmie & District	Guard	Moe South
Colbinabbin	Woodstock West	Mooroopna	Boorhaman	Wangaratta	Leneva	Morwell
Corop	Woosang	Muckatah	Booroolite & District	Wangaratta Group	Mitta Mitta	Newborough
Corop West	Wychitella	Murchison	Boweya	Wangaratta North	Mt Beauty	Tanjil
Deakin Group	Wyuna	Nagambie	Bowman-Murmungee	Warrenbayne	Mt Hotham - Dinner	Toongabbie
Echuca	Yambuna	Naring	Bowser	Whitegate	Plain	Traralgon
Echuca Village	Yarrowalla	Nathalia	Carboor	Whitfield & District	Mudgegonga	Traralgon East
Fentons Creek		Numurkah	Cheshunt	Whorouly	Myrtleford	Traralgon South
Gannawarra Group	District 22	Numurkah Group	Chesney Vale	Winton	Nariel Valley	Traralgon West
Girgarre	Almonds	NW Mooroopna	Devenish	Woods Point	Noorongong	Tyers
Gunbower	Arcadia	Peechelba	Edi		Norong	Yallourn North
Inglewood	Avenel	Picola	Eldorado	District 24	Old Tallangatta	Yinnar
Jarklin	Bailieston	Rigg's Creek	Everton	Allans Flat	Ovens Valley Group	Yinnar South
Kerang	Balmattum	Ruffy	Glenrowan	Baranduda	Ovens-Eurobin	
Koondrook	Barmah	Shean's Creek	Glenroy & Merrijig	Barnawartha	Porepunkah	
Korong Vale	Boho	Shepparton	Goomalibee &	Beechworth	Rosewhite	
Kotta	Branjee	Shepparton East	Upotipotpon	Beechworth	Rutherglen	
Kyabram	Bundalong	St James & District	Goorambat	Berringama	Rutherglen Group	
Lake Charm	Burramine	Strathbogie	Goughs Bay - Howes	Bethanga	Sandy Creek &	
Leitchville	Caniambo	Strathmerton	Creek	Biggara	Charleroi	
Lockington	Cobram	Tallygaroopna	Greta	Bogong Group	Stanley	
Loddon Vale	Cobram East & Boosey	Tatura	Jamieson	Bonegilla	Talgarno	
Macorna	Cooma	Toolamba	Killawarra	Bright	Tallangatta	
Meering West	Cosgrove & Pine Lodge	Tungamah	Laceby West	Browns Plains	Tallangatta Group	
Mitiamo	Creightons Creek	Tungamah Group	Lurg	Buffalo River	Tallangatta Valley	

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

The board members submit the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

1. General information

Board members

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Name	Position	Appointed/Resigned
Nev Jones AFSM	State President	
Graeme Jilbert	State Vice President	
Hans van Hamond AFSM		
Jill Parker		Appointed 1/10/15
Andy Cusack AFSM		
Gerry Neyenhuis		
Mick Nunweek		
Samantha Rothman		Appointed 1/10/15
Bill Maltby		
Bruce Pickett AFSM		
Tom Brodie AFSM		Resigned 30/9/15
Gary Lyttle AFSM		Resigned 30/9/15

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

1. To function as a non-profit association whose Members comprise Volunteer Fire Brigades registered by the Country Fire Authority under the Country Fire Authority Act (1958) and its Regulations.
2. To liaise and consult on the operation of the "Volunteer Charter" in the interests of CFA volunteers about all matters which might reasonably be expected to affect them. The Volunteer Charter is an agreed tripartite commitment between the State of Victoria, the CFA and CFA Volunteers, committing the State of Victoria and the CFA to consultation with volunteers about all matters which might reasonably be expected to affect volunteers. VBFV represents its Members and CFA Volunteers in that consultation process.
3. To assist in maintaining high morale, ongoing health and welfare of CFA volunteer members and their families.
4. Support CFA volunteers experiencing personal financial hardship/crisis by providing small welfare grants that may assist in alleviating stresses impacting on the individual's ability to maintain their involvement as a volunteer.
5. Preserve and strengthen CFA's community and volunteer based foundations by enabling members of CFA brigades to consider and bring to the notice of CFA all matters affecting their welfare and efficiency (other than questions of discipline and promotion).
6. To promote to CFA volunteers the comprehensive support services available to them including but not limited to: legal assistance, OH&S, equity and diversity, counselling and welfare, training, employment support and compensation for accidents, injuries and illness.
7. To develop awareness, respect and support for CFA volunteers and their fundamental and pivotal role in the CFA as a community based, volunteer based fire and emergency service of the people of Victoria.
8. To take any other action as determined by the Association Board consistent with these purposes.
9. To maintain and pursue a balanced focus on issues affecting CFA volunteers across all brigades from all risk profiles.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

General information continued

Significant changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year

Operating results and review of operations for the year

Operating result

The surplus of the Association for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$ 197,675 (2015: \$134,734).

Signed in accordance with resolution of the Members of the Board:

Board member: 
Nev Jones AFSM - State President

Board member: 
Andrew Cusack AFSM - Treasurer

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Auditor's Independence Declaration

In accordance with the requirements of section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as the auditor for the audit of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc for the year ended 30 June 2016, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit, and;
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants


Tim Flowers

Blackburn VIC

Date: 29 August 2016

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Income		
Affiliation Fee	188,753	186,605
Grants and Other Reimbursements	1,423,357	1,306,656
Championships	30,372	27,832
Interest Received	160,356	186,405
Special Projects Funding	2 391,390	301,755
Other/Auxiliary	6,519	4,035
Merchandise Sales	23,553	36,517
Bequest Received	70,163	6,015
	<u>2,294,463</u>	<u>2,055,820</u>
Expenditure		
Employment Costs	877,347	829,014
Project Salaries and Other Projects fees	330,662	199,418
Welfare Grants	133,348	101,162
Travelling Reimbursement, Accommodation and meals	315,513	311,958
Legal Fees	93,660	-
Other Office & Administration Expenditure	35,267	32,445
Advertising	17,613	84,158
Rent & Outgoings	75,598	66,599
Depreciation	48,540	44,331
Printing, Postage and Stationery	75,883	84,711
Communications	42,512	36,740
Accounting and Audit Fees	7,445	6,943
Championships & Championships Equipment	25,640	33,426
IT & Communications Equipment	-	58,751
Merchandise	15,328	28,794
Other Expenses	2,432	2,635
	<u>2,096,788</u>	<u>1,921,085</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>197,675</u>	<u>134,735</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year	<u>197,675</u>	<u>134,735</u>

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Note	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3 1,018,128	698,518
Trade and other receivables	4 147,455	259,924
Financial assets	5 <u>2,785,389</u>	<u>2,819,155</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,950,972</u>	<u>3,777,597</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial assets	5 2,267,924	2,190,173
Plant and equipment	6 <u>186,168</u>	<u>124,835</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>2,454,092</u>	<u>2,315,008</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>6,405,064</u>	<u>6,092,605</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	7 270,709	134,131
Employee benefits	8 165,563	153,954
Deferred income	9 <u>758,120</u>	<u>805,541</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>1,194,392</u>	<u>1,093,626</u>
Employee benefits	8 14,018	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>14,018</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,208,410</u>	<u>1,093,626</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>5,196,654</u>	<u>4,998,979</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated surplus	<u>5,196,654</u>	<u>4,998,979</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY	<u>5,196,654</u>	<u>4,998,979</u>

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

2016

	VFBV Inc.	Welfare Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2015	2,192,725	2,806,254	4,998,979
Surplus for the year	140,767	56,908	197,675
Balance at 30 June 2016	2,333,492	2,863,162	5,196,654

2015

	VFBV Inc.	Welfare Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2014	2,160,360	2,703,885	4,864,245
Surplus for the year	32,365	102,369	134,734
Balance at 30 June 2015	2,192,725	2,806,254	4,998,979

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers and government grants	2,364,909	2,021,635
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,051,797)	(2,043,399)
Interest received	160,356	247,515
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	12 473,468	225,751
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of plant and equipment	(126,414)	(6,440)
Redemption/ (Placement) of term deposit	(43,985)	(349,249)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	16,541	-
Net cash used by investing activities	(153,858)	(355,689)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	319,610	(129,938)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	698,518	828,456
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3 1,018,128	698,518

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial statement prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The board has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The financial report is aggregated to include the numbers of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Welfare Fund.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Welfare Fund are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

(b) Plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(c) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income.

(d) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting year. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies continued

(f) Revenue and other income

The Association recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc's activities as discussed below.

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Interest income is mainly on interest-bearing cash and cash equivalent balances. Interest income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Merchandise revenue is recognised when significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods are transferred out by the entity.

Affiliation fees are recognised as income in the year the fees are earned.

Championship revenue are recognised when the event has occurred.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(g) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(h) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

(i) Financial assets

Held-to-maturity investments

Held to maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Association's intention to hold these investments to maturity.

(j) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

2 Results for the year - Significant Revenue

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
- Special Projects Funding	(a)	391,390	301,755

(a) Included in special projects funding is \$65,253 which has been allocated from VESEP 2015/16 grant for the purchase of motor vehicles. The purchase of motor vehicle has been recorded in the statement of financial position and has not been expensed in the current year

3 Cash and cash equivalents

General Cheque Account	715,210	513,643
Travel reimbursement account	147,456	93,153
Debit card	4,769	3,619
Cash at call	92,040	272
Welfare Fund	58,653	87,831
	<u>1,018,128</u>	<u>698,518</u>

4 Trade and other receivables

CURRENT

Trade and other receivables	57,501	161,093
Welfare Fund trade and other receivables	89,954	98,831
	<u>147,455</u>	<u>259,924</u>

5 Financial assets

CURRENT

Term Deposits - VFBV	874,138	963,008
Term Deposits - Volunteer Support and Development Fund	(a) 1,349,090	1,311,005
Term Deposits - Welfare Fund	(b) 562,161	545,142
	<u>2,785,389</u>	<u>2,819,155</u>

NON-CURRENT

Term Deposits - Welfare Fund	(b) 2,267,924	2,190,173
	<u>2,267,924</u>	<u>2,190,173</u>

a) Volunteer Support & Development Fund is a donation driven fund established by VFBV to support community awareness, volunteer development and volunteer advocacy activities of VFBV.

b) Welfare Fund operates on a capital balance from donated funds used to support volunteers in times of personal hardship/crisis.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

6 Plant and equipment

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Motor vehicles		
At cost	209,688	122,549
Accumulated depreciation	(55,241)	(43,041)
Total motor vehicles	<u>154,447</u>	<u>79,508</u>
Office equipment		
At cost	156,340	168,356
Accumulated depreciation	(124,619)	(123,029)
Total office equipment	<u>31,721</u>	<u>45,327</u>
	<u><u>186,168</u></u>	<u><u>124,835</u></u>

7 Trade and other payables

CURRENT

Trade creditors	79,814	7,570
Other payables	<u>190,895</u>	<u>126,561</u>
	<u><u>270,709</u></u>	<u><u>134,131</u></u>

8 Employee Benefits

CURRENT

Long service leave	82,213	54,665
Annual leave	<u>83,350</u>	<u>99,289</u>
	<u><u>165,563</u></u>	<u><u>153,954</u></u>

NON-CURRENT

Long service leave	<u>14,018</u>	-
	<u><u>14,018</u></u>	-

9 Income in Advance

Government Grants	548,969	596,327
Deferred Affiliation Fees - VFBV	<u>93,429</u>	<u>93,493</u>
Deferred Affiliation Fees - Welfare Fund	<u>115,722</u>	<u>115,721</u>
	<u><u>758,120</u></u>	<u><u>805,541</u></u>

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

10 Capital and Leasing Commitments

Operating lease commitments

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted but not capitalised in the financial statements.		
- not later than one year	58,316	33,577
- between one year and five years	<u>81,941</u>	<u>1,089</u>
	<u><u>140,257</u></u>	<u><u>34,666</u></u>

Operating leases have been taken out for the rental of premises and the rental of a photocopier. Lease payments for the premise are increased on an annual basis to reflect market rentals.

The option for a further 3-year lease of the office premise was taken up on 1/1/16.

11 Related Parties Transactions

During the year, VFBV entered into contracts with the following brigades of which Board members were also involved:

VFBV Board Member	Brigade	Membership Paid
Andy Cusack	Mumbannar	Yes
Bill Maltby	Castlemaine	Yes
Bruce Pickett	Geelong West	Yes
Jill Parker	Mortlake	Yes
Hans van Hamond	Wendouree	Yes
Nev Jones	Moorooduc	Yes
Graeme Jilbert	Swan Hill	Yes
Gerry Neyenhuis	Warrington	Yes
Samantha Rothman	Maryborough	Yes
Mick Nunweek	Stawell	Yes

All contracts for membership fees were provided at arms length commercial amounts.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

12 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Surplus for the year	197,675	134,734
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
Depreciation	48,540	44,331
Changes in assets		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	112,469	42,167
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(47,421)	(3,289)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	136,578	15,116
- increase/(decrease) in provisions	25,627	(7,308)
Cashflow from operations	<u>473,468</u>	<u>225,751</u>

13 Association Details

The registered office of the association is:
Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc
9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East
VIC 3151

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

14 Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. Welfare Fund

(a) Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Affiliation fees	102,722	100,037
Interest Received	86,330	99,503
Other income	1,204	3,991
	<u>190,256</u>	<u>203,531</u>
EXPENSES		
Grants	(133,348)	(101,162)
Surplus from operations	<u>56,908</u>	<u>102,369</u>

(b) Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	58,847	87,831
Trade and other receivables	89,954	98,829
Financial assets	2,830,085	2,735,315
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,978,886</u>	<u>2,921,975</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred Income	(115,724)	(115,721)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>(115,724)</u>	<u>(115,721)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,863,162</u>	<u>2,806,254</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated surplus	2,863,162	2,806,254
Total Equity	<u>2,863,162</u>	<u>2,806,254</u>

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

True and Fair Certification by Members of the Board

The board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the board the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 15:

1. Give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2016.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
3. Satisfies the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commissions Regulation 2013.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the board and is signed for and on behalf of the board by:

Board member 

Board member 

Dated 29 August 2016

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Independent Audit Report to the board of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and statement by members of the board.

Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Association Incorporations Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC), and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants



Tim Flowers

Blackburn VIC

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Other income	737	948
Expenses		
Fund Distributions	12,000	-
Surplus/(loss) for the year	(11,263)	948
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	44,288	43,340
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	33,025	44,288

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	33,025	44,288
Cash on hand	100	100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	33,125	44,388
TOTAL ASSETS	33,125	44,388
NET ASSETS	33,125	44,388
EQUITY		
Settled Sum	100	100
Retained Surplus	33,025	44,288
TOTAL EQUITY	33,125	44,388

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

The Trustees believe the Trust is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports. These financial statements are therefore a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the trust deed and the information needs of stakeholders.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the Trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

(b) Income Tax

The Trust is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The entity is a registered charity with the Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(d) Revenue and other income

The trust recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund's activities as discussed below.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Trustees' Declaration

The Trustees declare that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the trustee company declare that the financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 3:

1. present fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and;
2. in the Trustees' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Trustees.

Trustee 

Trustee 

Dated 29 August 2016

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Independent Audit Report to the members of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, the statement of income and expenditure for the year ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is in accordance with the trust deed and meet the needs of the stakeholders. The trustees' responsibility also includes implementing such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Trust's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the trustees, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

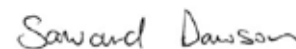
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund as at 30 June 2016, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund to comply with the trust deed's financial reporting provisions. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants



Tim Flowers
Blackburn VIC

Date: 29 August 2016

**The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI)
Awareness and Protection Fund**

ABN: 30 120 187 964

**Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Donations	550	13,492
Interest received	420	327
Expenses	-	-
Surplus for the year	<u>970</u>	<u>13,819</u>
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	<u>23,849</u>	<u>10,030</u>
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>24,819</u>	<u>23,849</u>

**The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI)
Awareness and Protection Fund**

ABN: 30 120 187 964

Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	24,819	23,849
Cash on hand	100	100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>24,919</u>	<u>23,949</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>24,919</u>	<u>23,949</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>24,919</u>	<u>23,949</u>
EQUITY		
Settled sum	100	100
Retained Surplus	<u>24,819</u>	<u>23,849</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>24,919</u>	<u>23,949</u>

**The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI)
Awareness and Protection Fund**

ABN: 30 120 187 964

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2016**

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

The trustees believe the Trust is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports. These financial statements are therefore a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the trust deed and the information needs of stakeholders.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the Trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

(b) Income Tax

The Trust is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The entity is a registered charity with the Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(d) Revenue and other income

The trust recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of the fund's activities as discussed below.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964


Trustees' Declaration

The Trustees declare that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the trustee company declare that the financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 3:

1. present fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
2. in the Trustees' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Trustees.

Trustee 

Trustee 

Dated 29 August 2016

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964

Independent Audit Report to the members of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies.

Trustee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis described in Note 1 to the financial report is in accordance with the trust deed and meet the needs of the stakeholders. The trustee's responsibility also includes implementing such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the trust's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the trust's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964


Independent Audit Report to the members of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund as at 30 June 2016, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illness (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund to comply with the trust deed's financial reporting provisions. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants



Tim Flowers

Partner

Blackburn, VIC

Date 29 August 2016

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